

NOVEL COMPOUNDS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 of Danish application no. PA 2002 01631 filed October 28, 2002 and Danish application no. PA 2003 00793 filed on May 26, 2003 and U.S. application no. 60/423,467 filed on November 4, 2002, the contents of each of which are fully incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel compounds, to the use of these compounds as pharmaceutical compositions, to pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds and to a method of treatment employing these compounds and compositions. More specifically, the compounds of the invention can be utilised in the treatment and/or prevention of conditions mediated by the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR), in particular the PPAR δ subtype.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the major cause of death in Type 2 diabetic and metabolic syndrome patients (i.e. patients that fall within the 'deadly quartet' category of impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, hypertriglyceridaemia and/or obesity).

The hypolipidaemic fibrates and antidiabetic thiazolidinediones separately display moderately effective triglyceride-lowering activities although they are neither potent nor efficacious enough to be a single therapy of choice for the dyslipidaemia often observed in Type 2 diabetic or metabolic syndrome patients. The thiazolidinediones also potently lower circulating glucose levels of Type 2 diabetic animal models and humans. However, the fibrate class of compounds are without beneficial effects on glycaemia. Studies on the molecular actions of these compounds indicate that thiazolidinediones and fibrates exert their action by activating distinct transcription factors of the peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR) family, resulting in increased and decreased expression of specific enzymes and apolipoproteins respectively, both key-players in regulation of plasma triglyceride content. Fibrates, on the one hand, are PPAR α activators, acting primarily in the liver. Thiazolidinediones, on the other hand, are high affinity ligands for PPAR γ acting primarily on adipose tissue.

Adipose tissue plays a central role in lipid homeostasis and the maintenance of energy balance in vertebrates. Adipocytes store energy in the form of triglycerides during

periods of nutritional affluence and release it in the form of free fatty acids at times of nutritional deprivation. The development of white adipose tissue is the result of a continuous differentiation process throughout life. Much evidence points to the central role of PPAR γ activation in initiating and regulating this cell differentiation. Several highly specialised proteins are induced during adipocyte differentiation, most of them being involved in lipid storage and metabolism. The exact link from activation of PPAR γ to changes in glucose metabolism, most notably a decrease in insulin resistance in muscle, has not yet been clarified. A possible link is via free fatty acids such that activation of PPAR γ induces Lipoprotein Lipase (LPL), Fatty Acid Transport Protein (FATP) and Acyl-CoA Synthetase (ACS) in adipose tissue but not in muscle tissue. This, in turn, reduces the concentration of free fatty acids in plasma dramatically, and due to substrate competition at the cellular level, skeletal muscle and other tissues with high metabolic rates eventually switch from fatty acid oxidation to glucose oxidation with decreased insulin resistance as a consequence.

PPAR α is involved in stimulating β -oxidation of fatty acids. In rodents, a PPAR α -mediated change in the expression of genes involved in fatty acid metabolism lies at the basis of the phenomenon of peroxisome proliferation, a pleiotropic cellular response, mainly limited to liver and kidney and which can lead to hepatocarcinogenesis in rodents. The phenomenon of peroxisome proliferation is not seen in man. In addition to its role in peroxisome proliferation in rodents, PPAR α is also involved in the control of HDL cholesterol levels in rodents and humans. This effect is, at least partially, based on a PPAR α -mediated transcriptional regulation of the major HDL apolipoproteins, apo A-I and apo A-II. The hypotriglyceridemic action of fibrates and fatty acids also involves PPAR α and can be summarised as follows: (I) an increased lipolysis and clearance of remnant particles, due to changes in lipoprotein lipase and apo C-III levels, (II) a stimulation of cellular fatty acid uptake and their subsequent conversion to acyl-CoA derivatives by the induction of fatty acid binding protein and acyl-CoA synthase, (III) an induction of fatty acid β -oxidation pathways, (IV) a reduction in fatty acid and triglyceride synthesis, and finally (V) a decrease in VLDL production. Hence, both enhanced catabolism of triglyceride-rich particles as well as reduced secretion of VLDL particles constitutes mechanisms that contribute to the hypolipidemic effect of fibrates.

PPAR δ activation was initially reported not to be involved in modulation of glucose or triglyceride levels. (Berger et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1999, Vol 274, pp. 6718-6725). Later it has been shown that PPAR δ activation leads to increased levels of HDL cholesterol in db/db mice (Leibowitz et al. FEBS letters 2000, 473, 333-336). Further, a PPAR δ agonist when

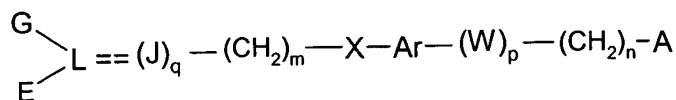
dosed to insulin-resistant middle-aged obese rhesus monkeys caused a dramatic dose-dependent rise in serum HDL cholesterol while lowering the levels of small dense LDL, fasting triglycerides and fasting insulin (Oliver et al. PNAS 2001, 98, 5306-5311). The same paper also showed that PPAR δ activation increased the reverse cholesterol transporter ATP-binding cassette A1 and induced apolipoprotein A1-specific cholesterol efflux. The involvement of PPAR δ in fatty acid oxidation in muscles was further substantiated in PPAR α knock-out mice. Muoio et al. (J. Biol. Chem. 2002, 277, 26089-26097) showed that the high levels of PPAR δ in skeletal muscle can compensate for deficiency in PPAR α . Taken together these observations suggest that PPAR δ activation is useful in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases and conditions including atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, and mixed dyslipidaemia (WO 01/00603).

A number of PPAR δ compounds have been reported to be useful in the treatment of hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia and hypercholesterolemia (WO 02/59098, WO 01/603, WO 01/25181, WO 02/14291, WO 01/79197, WO 99/4815, WO 97/28149, WO 98/27974, WO 97/28115, WO 97/27857, WO 97/28137, WO 97/27847).

Glucose lowering as a single approach does not overcome the macrovascular complications associated with Type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome. Novel treatments of Type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome must therefore aim at lowering both the overt hypertriglyceridaemia associated with these syndromes as well as alleviation of hyperglycemia.

This indicates that research for compounds displaying various degrees of PPAR α , PPAR γ and PPAR δ activation should lead to the discovery of efficacious triglyceride and/or cholesterol and/or glucose lowering drugs that have great potential in the treatment of diseases such as type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, syndrome X (including the metabolic syndrome, i.e. impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance, hypertriglyceridaemia and/or obesity), cardiovascular diseases (including atherosclerosis) and hypercholesterolemia.

In WO 97/48674, various antimicrobial diaryls have been described as anti-infective agents. The invention comprises compounds of the formula:



wherein L may be selected from the group consisting of N, CH and C; G, E may independently be selected from i.a. phenyl, substituted phenyl (the substituents being halogen, alkyl or alkoxy), phenylC₁₋₄-alkyl, substituted phenylC₁₋₄-alkyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-thienyl and 3-thienyl; J may be CH or O; X may be selected from the group consisting of is O, S,

NR, and C(O)NR; Ar may be aryl or substituted aryl (the substituents being halogen, alkyl or alkoxy); W may be O or S; A may be selected from the group consisting of i.a. NRR, amidino, COOH; CHR₂COOH, CH=CHR, CH=C(COOH)₂; m, n may independently be 0-6; and q, p may independently be 0 or 1. The application does not disclose any compounds
5 wherein p is 1.

DEFINITIONS

In the structural formulas given herein and throughout the present specification the following terms have the indicated meaning:

The term "C₁₋₆-alkyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, represent a linear or
10 branched, saturated hydrocarbon chain having the indicated number of carbon atoms. Representative examples include, but are not limited to methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, isopentyl, hexyl, isohexyl and the like.

The term "C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl" as used herein, represents a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above having the indicated number of carbon atoms linked through a carbonyl group.
15 Representative examples include, but are not limited to, methylcarbonyl, ethylcarbonyl, n-propylcarbonyl, isopropylcarbonyl, butylcarbonyl, isobutylcarbonyl, sec-butylcarbonyl, tert-butylcarbonyl, n-pentylcarbonyl, isopentylcarbonyl, neopentylcarbonyl, tert-pentylcarbonyl, n-hexylcarbonyl, isohexylcarbonyl and the like.

The term "C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl" as used herein refers to a monovalent substituent comprising a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above linked through a sulfonyl group. Representative
20 examples include, but are not limited to, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, n-propylsulfonyl, isopropylsulfonyl, n-butylsulfonyl, isobutylsulfonyl, sec-butylsulfonyl, tert-butylsulfonyl, n-pentylsulfonyl, isopentylsulfonyl, neopentylsulfonyl, tert-pentylsulfonyl, n-hexylsulfonyl, isohexylsulfonyl and the like.

The term "C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyloxy" as used herein refers to a monovalent substituent comprising a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above linked through a sulfonyloxy group. Representative
25 examples include, but are not limited to, methylsulfonyloxy, ethylsulfonyloxy, n-propylsulfonyloxy, isopropylsulfonyloxy, n-butylsulfonyloxy, isobutylsulfonyloxy, sec-butylsulfonyloxy, tert-butylsulfonyloxy, n-pentylsulfonyloxy, isopentylsulfonyloxy, neopentylsulfonyloxy, tert-pentylsulfonyloxy, n-hexylsulfonyloxy, isohexylsulfonyloxy and the like.
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The term "C₁₋₆-alkylamido" as used herein, refers to an acyl group linked through an amino group; Representative examples include, but are not limited to acetylamino, propionylamino, butyrylamino, isobutyrylamino, pivaloylamino, valerylamino and the like.

The term "C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, represent a saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon group having the indicated number of carbon atoms. Representative examples include, but are not limited to cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and the like.

5 The term "C₂₋₆-alkenyl" as used herein, represent an olefinically unsaturated branched or straight hydrocarbon group having from 2 to the specified number of carbon atoms and at least one double bond. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, vinyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, allyl, iso-propenyl, 1,3-butadienyl, 1-butenyl, hexenyl, pentenyl and the like.

10 The term "C₂₋₆-alkynyl" as used herein, represent an unsaturated branched or straight hydrocarbon group having from 2 to the specified number of carbon atoms and at least one triple bond. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, 1-propynyl, 2-propynyl, 1-butylnyl, 2-butylnyl, 1-pentylnyl, 2-pentylnyl and the like.

15 The term "C₄₋₆-alkenynyl" as used herein, represent an unsaturated branched or straight hydrocarbon group having from 4 to the specified number of carbon atoms and both at least one double bond and at least one triple bond. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, 1-penten-4-ynyl, 3-penten-1-ynyl, 1,3-hexadiene-5-ynyl and the like.

20 The term "C₁₋₆-alkoxy" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched configuration linked through an ether oxygen having its free valence bond from the ether oxygen. Examples of linear alkoxy groups are methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, pentoxy, hexoxy and the like. Examples of branched alkoxy are isopropoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, isopentyloxy, isohexyloxy and the like.

25 The term "C₃₋₆-cycloalkoxy" as used herein, alone or in combination, represent a saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon group having the indicated number of carbon atoms linked through an ether oxygen having its free valence bond from the ether oxygen. Examples of cycloalkoxy groups are cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy, cyclopentyloxy, cyclohexyloxy and the like.

30 The term "C₁₋₆-alkylthio" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched monovalent substituent comprising a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above linked through a divalent sulfur atom having its free valence bond from the sulfur atom and having 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, methylthio, ethylthio, propylthio, butylthio, pentylthio and the like.

35 The term "C₃₋₆-cycloalkylthio" as used herein, alone or in combination, represent a saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon group having the indicated number of carbon atoms linked through a divalent sulfur atom having its free valence bond from the sulfur atom. Examples of

cycloalkoxy groups are cyclopropylthio, cyclobutylthio, cyclopentylthio, cyclohexylthio and the like.

The term "C₁₋₆-alkylamino" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched monovalent substituent comprising a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above linked through amino having a free valence bond from the nitrogen atom. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, methylamino, ethylamino, propylamino, butylamino, pentylamino and the like.

The term "C₁₋₆-alkylaminocarbonyl" as used herein refers to a monovalent substituent comprising a C₁₋₆-monoalkylamino group linked through a carbonyl group such as e.g. methylaminocarbonyl, ethylaminocarbonyl, n-propylaminocarbonyl, isopropylaminocarbonyl, n-butylaminocarbonyl, sec-butylaminocarbonyl, isobutylaminocarbonyl, tert-butylaminocarbonyl, n-pentylaminocarbonyl, 2-methylbutylaminocarbonyl, 3-methylbutylaminocarbonyl, n-hexylaminocarbonyl, 4-methylpentylaminocarbonyl, neopentylaminocarbonyl, n-hexylaminocarbonyl and 2-2-dimethylpropylaminocarbonyl and the like.

The term "C₃₋₆-cycloalkylamino" as used herein, alone or in combination, represent a saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon group having the indicated number of carbon atoms linked through amino having a free valence bond from the nitrogen atom. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, cyclopropylamino, cyclobutylamino, cyclopentylamino, cyclohexylamino and the like.

The term "C₁₋₆-alkoxyC₁₋₆-alkyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above where to is attached a "C₁₋₆-alkoxy" group as defined above. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxyethyl and the like.

The term "aryl" as used herein refers to an aromatic monocyclic or an aromatic fused bi- or tricyclic hydrocarbon group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, phenyl, naphthyl, anthracenyl, phenanthrenyl, azulenyl and the like.

The term "arylene" as used herein refers to divalent aromatic monocyclic or a divalent aromatic fused bi- or tricyclic hydrocarbon group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, phenylene, naphthylene and the like.

The term "arylcarbonyl" as used herein represents an "aryl" group as defined above linked through a carbonyl group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, phenylcarbonyl, naphthylcarbonyl, anthracenylcarbonyl, phenanthrenylcarbonyl, azulenylcarbonyl and the like.

The term "arylsulfonyl" as used herein refers to an "aryl" group as defined above linked through a sulfonyl group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to,

phenylsulfonyl, naphthylsulfonyl, anthracenylsulfonyl, phenanthrenylsulfonyl, azulenylylsulfonyl, and the like.

The term "arylsulfonyloxy" as used herein refers to an "aryl" group as defined above linked through a sulfonyloxy group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, phenylsulfonyloxy, naphthylsulfonyloxy, anthracenylsulfonyloxy, phenanthrenylsulfonyloxy, azulenylylsulfonyloxy, and the like.

The term "arylamido" as used herein refers to an arylcarbonyl group linked through an amino group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to phenylcarbonylamino, naphthylcarbonylamino, anthracenylcarbonylamino, phenanthrenylcarbonylamino, azulenylylcarbonylamino and the like.

The term "halogen" means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

The term "perhalomethyl" means trifluoromethyl, trichloromethyl, tribromomethyl or triiodomethyl.

The term "perhalomethoxy" means trifluoromethoxy, trichloromethoxy, tribromomethoxy or triiodomethoxy.

The term "C₁₋₆-dialkylamino" as used herein refers to an amino group wherein the two hydrogen atoms independently are substituted with a straight or branched, saturated hydrocarbon chain having the indicated number of carbon atoms. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, dimethylamino, N-ethyl-N-methylamino, diethylamino, dipropylamino, N-(n-butyl)-N-methylamino, di(n-pentyl)amino and the like.

The term "acyl" as used herein refers to a monovalent substituent comprising a "C₁₋₆-alkyl" group as defined above linked through a carbonyl group. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, acetyl, propionyl, butyryl, isobutyryl, pivaloyl, valeryl and the like.

The term "heteroaryl" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a monovalent substituent comprising a 5-7 membered monocyclic aromatic system or a 8-10 membered bicyclic aromatic system containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, e.g. furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, pteridinyl and purinyl and the like.

The term "heteroarylene" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to divalent 5-7 membered monocyclic aromatic system or a 8-10 membered bicyclic aromatic system containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, e.g. furylene, thienylene, pyrrolylene, imidazolylene, pyrazolylene, triazolylene, pyrazinylene, pyrimi-

dinylene, pyridazinylene, isothiazolylene, isoxazolylene, oxazolylene, oxadiazolylene, thiadiazolylene, quinolylene, isoquinolylene, quinazolinylene, quinoxalinylene, indolylene, benzimidazolylene, benzofuranylene, pteridylene and purinylene and the like.

The term "heteroaryloxy" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a heteroaryl as defined herein linked to an oxygen atom having its free valence bond from the oxygen atom e.g. pyrrolyloxy, imidazolyloxy, pyrazolyloxy, triazolyloxy, pyrazinyloxy, pyrimidinyloxy, pyridazinyloxy, isothiazolyloxy, isoxazolyloxy, oxazolyloxy, oxadiazolyloxy, thiadiazolyloxy, quinolinyloxy, isoquinolinyloxy, quinazolinolyloxy, quinoxalinyloxy, indolyloxy, benzimidazolyloxy, benzofuranyloxy, pteridinyloxy and purinyloxy and the like.

The term "aralkyl" as used herein refers to a straight or branched saturated carbon chain containing from 1 to 6 carbons substituted with an aromatic carbohydride. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, benzyl, phenethyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 1-naphthylmethyl, 2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl and the like.

The term "aryloxy" as used herein refers to phenoxy, 1-naphthyloxy, 2-naphthyloxy and the like.

The term "aralkoxy" as used herein refers to a C₁₋₆-alkoxy group substituted with an aromatic carbohydride, such as benzyloxy, phenethoxy, 3-phenylpropoxy, 1-naphthylmethoxy, 2-(1-naphthyl)ethoxy and the like.

The term "heteroaralkyl" as used herein refers to a straight or branched saturated carbon chain containing from 1 to 6 carbons substituted with a heteroaryl group; such as (2-furyl)methyl, (3-furyl)methyl, (2-thienyl)methyl, (3-thienyl)methyl, (2-pyridyl)methyl, 1-methyl-1-(2-pyrimidyl)ethyl and the like.

The term "heteroaralkoxy" as used herein refers to a heteroarylalkyl as defined herein linked to an oxygen atom having its free valence bond from the oxygen atom. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, (2-furyl)methyloxy, (3-furyl)methyloxy, (2-thienyl)methyloxy, (3-thienyl)methyloxy, (2-pyridyl)methyloxy, 1-methyl-1-(2-pyrimidyl)ethyloxy and the like.

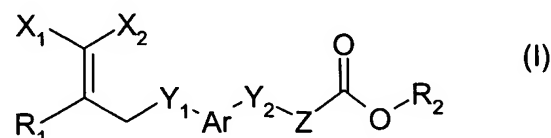
The term "arylthio" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to an aryl group linked through a divalent sulfur atom having its free valence bond from the sulfur atom, the aryl group optionally being mono- or polysubstituted with C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, hydroxy or C₁₋₆-alkoxy. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, phenylthio, (4-methylphenyl)-thio, (2-chlorophenyl)thio and the like.

Certain of the above defined terms may occur more than once in the structural formulae, and upon such occurrence each term shall be defined independently of the other.

The term "optionally substituted" as used herein means that the groups in question are either unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the substituents specified. When the groups in question are substituted with more than one substituent the substituents may be the same or different.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to compounds of the general formula (I):



- 10 wherein X_1 is aryl or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from
- halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino or carboxy; or
 - C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-6} -cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{3-6} -cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, heteroaralkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, arylthio, C_{3-6} -cycloalkylthio, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-6} -alkylamido, arylamido, C_{1-6} -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylamino, C_{1-6} -dialkylamino or C_{3-6} -cycloalkylamino each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens; and
- 20 X_2 is aryl or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from
- halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino or carboxy; or
 - C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-6} -cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{3-6} -cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, heteroaralkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, arylthio, C_{3-6} -cycloalkylthio, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-6} -alkylamido, arylamido, C_{1-6} -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylamino, C_{1-6} -dialkylamino or C_{3-6} -cycloalkylamino each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens; and
- 30 Ar is arylene which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from
- halogen, hydroxy or cyano; or

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₃₋₆-cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, heteroaralkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, arylthio or C₃₋₆-cycloalkylthio each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens; and

5

Y₁ is O or S; and

Y₂ is O or S; and

10

Z is -(CH₂)_n- wherein n is 1, 2 or 3; and

R₁ is hydrogen, halogen or a substituent selected from

- 15
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₃₋₆-cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, heteroaralkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, arylthio or C₃₋₆-cycloalkylthio each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens; and

R₂ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₄₋₆-alkenynyl or aryl; or

20

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, or any tautomeric forms, stereoisomers, mixture of stereoisomers including a racemic mixture, or polymorphs.

In one embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₁ is aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 25
- halogen; or
 - C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyloxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₁ is aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 30
- halogen; or
 - C₁₋₆-alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₁ is aryl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- halogen; or
- 5 • C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyl or C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyloxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 10 • halogen; or
- C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- halogen; or
- 15 • C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyl or C_{1-6} -alkylsulfonyloxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- halogen; or
- 20 • C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is furyl, thienyl, benzothienyl or benzofuranyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_1 is furyl, thienyl, benzothienyl or benzofuranyl, optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_2 is aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 35 • halogen; or

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyloxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 5
- halogen; or
 - C₁₋₆-alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is aryl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

10 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- halogen; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyloxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

15 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- halogen; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

20 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is phenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 25
- halogen; or
 - C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyloxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

- 30
- halogen; or
 - C₁₋₆-alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X₂ is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_2 is furyl, thienyl, benzothienyl or benzofuranyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

5 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein X_2 is furyl, thienyl, benzothienyl or benzofuranyl, optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

10

- halogen, hydroxy or cyano; or
- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-6} -cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, C_{3-6} -cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, heteroaralkoxy, C_{1-6} -alkylthio, arylthio or C_{3-6} -cycloalkylthio each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from

15

- halogen; or
- C_{1-6} -alkyl, aryl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, aryloxy or aralkoxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

20 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

25 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} -alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more aryl optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

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In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with methyl or ethyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with methoxy.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene which is optionally substituted with one or more of phenyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Ar is phenylene.

5 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Y_1 is O.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Y_1 is S.

10 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Y_2 is O.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein Y_2 is S.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein n is 1.

15 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a substituent selected from C_{1-6} -alkyl, aralkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a substituent selected from C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy each of which is optionally substituted with one or more halogens.

20 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein R_1 is hydrogen.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein R_1 is methoxy or ethoxy.

25 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein R_2 is hydrogen.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula (I) wherein R_2 is methyl or ethyl.

30 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein alkyl is methyl or ethyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein alkenyl is vinyl or 1-propenyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein alkynyl is 1-propynyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein alkenynyl is 1-pentene-4-yne.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein alkoxy is methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy or cyclopropoxy.

5 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein aryl is phenyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein arylene is phenylene.

10 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein halogen is bromine, fluorine or chlorine.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein perhalomethyl is trifluoromethyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein perhalomethoxy is trifluoromethoxy,

15 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein heteroaryl is furyl or thienyl.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein aralkyl is benzyl.

20 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein aryloxy is phenoxy.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein aralkoxy is benzyloxy.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein the substituents R₁ and X₂ are arranged in a trans-configuration.

25 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I wherein the substituents R₁ and X₂ are arranged in a cis-configuration.

In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I which are PPAR δ agonists.

30 In another embodiment, the present invention is concerned with compounds of formula I which are selective PPAR δ agonists.

Examples of specific compounds of the invention are:

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2,6-diphenyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester

35 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2,6-diphenyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid, or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, or any tautomeric forms, stereoisomers, mixture of stereoisomers including a racemic mixture, or polymorphs.

Other examples of specific compounds of the invention are:

- 5 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- 10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- 15 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- 20 {4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
- 25 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester
- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid, or
- a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof,
- or any tautomeric forms, stereoisomers, mixture of stereoisomers including a racemic mixture,
- 30 or polymorphs.

Other examples of specific compounds of the invention are:

- (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid
- (E/Z)-[4-[3-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid
- 35 acid

- (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Furan-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid
(E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-Methylthiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid
(E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid
5 (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allyloxy]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Di-furan-2-yl-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid
15 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
(E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-Bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid, or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof,
or any tautomeric forms, stereoisomers, mixture of stereoisomers including a racemic mixture, or polymorphs.
20

Other examples of specific compounds of the invention are:

- {4-[3-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
25 {4-[3-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
30 {4-[3-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
35 {4-[3-(3-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid

- {4-[3-(4-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
5 {4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
10 {4-[3-(4-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
15 {4-[3-(3-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
20 {4-[3-(2-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
25 {4-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
30 {4-[3-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
35 {4-[3-(2-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

- {4-[3-(3-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
5 {4-[3-(4-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
10 {4-[3-(3-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
15 {4-[3-(2-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
20 {4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
25 {4-[3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
30 {4-[3-(2-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
35 {4-[3-(4-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid

- {4-[3-(2-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
5 {4-[3-(3-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
10 {4-[3-(2-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
15 {4-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
20 {4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid
25 {4-[3-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
30 {4-[3-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
35 {4-[3-(3-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid

- {4-[3-(4-Iodo-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
5 {4-[3-(2-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
10 {4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoroethyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
15 {4-[3-(3-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
20 {4-[3-(2-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(4-Trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
25 {4-[3-(4-Methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-bromo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-iodo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-allylsulfanyl]-2-iodo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
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10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(2-methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-3-iodo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-3-iodo-phenoxy}-acetic acid
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-methanesulfonyloxy-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-3-iodo-phenoxy}-acetic acid, or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof,
or any tautomeric forms, stereoisomers, mixture of stereoisomers including a racemic mix-
15 ture, or polymorphs.

The present invention also encompasses pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the present compounds. Such salts include pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts, pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts, pharmaceutically acceptable metal salts, ammonium and alkylated ammonium salts. Acid addition salts include salts of inorganic acids
20 as well as organic acids. Representative examples of suitable inorganic acids include hydrochloric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, phosphoric, sulfuric, nitric acids and the like. Representative examples of suitable organic acids include formic, acetic, trichloroacetic, trifluoroacetic, propionic, benzoic, cinnamic, citric, fumaric, glycolic, lactic, maleic, malic, malonic, mandelic, oxalic, picric, pyruvic, salicylic, succinic, methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, tartaric, ascorbic,
25 pantoic, bismethylene salicylic, ethanedisulfonic, gluconic, citraconic, aspartic, stearic, palmitic, EDTA, glycolic, p-aminobenzoic, glutamic, benzenesulfonic, p-toluenesulfonic acids, sulphates, nitrates, phosphates, perchlorates, borates, acetates, benzoates, hydroxynaphthoates, glycerophosphates, ketoglutarates and the like. Further examples of pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic acid addition salts include the pharmaceutically acceptable salts listed in J. Pharm. Sci. 1977, 66, 2, which is incorporated herein by reference. Ex-
30 amples of metal salts include lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, zinc, calcium salts and the like. Examples of amines and organic amines include ammonium, methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, ethylamine, diethylamine, propylamine, butylamine, tetramethylamine, ethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, meglumine, ethylenediamine,
35 choline, N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, N-benzylphenylethylamine, N-methyl-D-glucamine,

guanidine and the like. Examples of cationic amino acids include lysine, arginine, histidine and the like.

The pharmaceutically acceptable salts are prepared by reacting the compound of formula I with 1 to 4 equivalents of a base such as sodium hydroxide, sodium methoxide, sodium hydride, potassium t-butoxide, calcium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide and the like, in solvents like ether, THF, methanol, t-butanol, dioxane, isopropanol, ethanol etc. Mixture of solvents may be used. Organic bases like lysine, arginine, diethanolamine, choline, guanidine and their derivatives etc. may also be used. Alternatively, acid addition salts wherever applicable are prepared by treatment with acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, p-toluenesulphonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, maleic acid, salicylic acid, hydroxynaphthoic acid, ascorbic acid, palmitic acid, succinic acid, benzoic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, tartaric acid and the like in solvents like ethyl acetate, ether, alcohols, acetone, THF, dioxane etc. Mixture of solvents may also be used.

The stereoisomers of the compounds forming part of this invention may be prepared by using reactants in their single enantiomeric form in the process wherever possible or by conducting the reaction in the presence of reagents or catalysts in their single enantiomer form or by resolving the mixture of stereoisomers by conventional methods. Some of the preferred methods include use of microbial resolution, enzymatic resolution, resolving the diastereomeric salts formed with chiral acids such as mandelic acid, camphorsulfonic acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, and the like wherever applicable or chiral bases such as brucine, (*R*)- or (*S*)-phenylethylamine, cinchona alkaloids and their derivatives and the like. Commonly used methods are compiled by Jaques et al in "Enantiomers, Racemates and Resolution" (Wiley Interscience, 1981). More specifically the compound of formula I may be converted to a 1:1 mixture of diastereomeric amides by treating with chiral amines, aminoacids, aminoalcohols derived from aminoacids; conventional reaction conditions may be employed to convert acid into an amide; the diastereomers may be separated either by fractional crystallization or chromatography and the stereoisomers of compound of formula I may be prepared by hydrolysing the pure diastereomeric amide.

Various polymorphs of compound of general formula I forming part of this invention may be prepared by crystallization of compound of formula I under different conditions. For example, using different solvents commonly used or their mixtures for recrystallization; crystallizations at different temperatures; various modes of cooling, ranging from very fast to very slow cooling during crystallizations. Polymorphs may also be obtained by heating or melting the compound followed by gradual or fast cooling. The presence of polymorphs may be de-

terminated by solid probe nmr spectroscopy, ir spectroscopy, differential scanning calorimetry, powder X-ray diffraction or such other techniques.

The invention also encompasses prodrugs of the present compounds, which on administration undergo chemical conversion by metabolic processes before becoming active pharmacological substances. In general, such prodrugs will be functional derivatives of the present compounds, which are readily convertible in vivo into the required compound of the formula (I). Conventional procedures for the selection and preparation of suitable prodrug derivatives are described, for example, in "Design of Prodrugs", ed. H. Bundgaard, Elsevier, 1985.

The invention also encompasses active metabolites of the present compounds.

The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one compound of the formula I or any optical or geometric isomer or tautomeric form thereof including mixtures of these or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents.

Furthermore, the invention relates to the use of compounds of the general formula I or their tautomeric forms, their stereoisomers, their polymorphs, their pharmaceutically acceptable salts or pharmaceutically acceptable solvates thereof for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of conditions mediated by nuclear receptors, in particular the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR) such as the conditions mentioned above.

In another aspect, the present invention relates to a method of treating and/or preventing Type I or Type II diabetes.

In a still further aspect, the present invention relates to the use of one or more compounds of the general formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of Type I or Type II diabetes.

In a still further aspect, the present compounds are useful for the treatment and/or prevention of IGT.

In a still further aspect, the present compounds are useful for the treatment and/or prevention of Type 2 diabetes.

In a still further aspect, the present compounds are useful for the delaying or prevention of the progression from IGT to Type 2 diabetes.

In a still further aspect, the present compounds are useful for the delaying or prevention of the progression from non-insulin requiring Type 2 diabetes to insulin requiring Type 2 diabetes.

In another aspect, the present compounds reduce blood glucose and triglyceride levels and are accordingly useful for the treatment and/or prevention of ailments and disorders such as diabetes and/or obesity.

5 In still another aspect, the present compounds are useful for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of insulin resistance (Type 2 diabetes), impaired glucose tolerance, dyslipidemia, disorders related to Syndrome X such as hypertension, obesity, insulin resistance, hyperglycaemia, atherosclerosis, hyperlipidemia, coronary artery disease, myocardial ischemia and other cardiovascular disorders.

10 In still another aspect, the present compounds are effective in decreasing apoptosis in mammalian cells such as beta cells of Islets of Langerhans.

In still another aspect, the present compounds are useful for the treatment of certain renal diseases including glomerulonephritis, glomerulosclerosis, nephrotic syndrome, hypertensive nephrosclerosis.

15 In still another aspect, the present compounds may also be useful for improving cognitive functions in dementia, treating diabetic complications, psoriasis, polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) and prevention and treatment of bone loss, e.g. osteoporosis.

In yet another aspect, the invention also relates to the use of the present compounds, which after administration lower the bio-markers of atherosclerosis like, but not limited to, c-reactive protein (CRP), $\text{TNF}\alpha$ and IL-6.

20 The present compounds may also be administered in combination with one or more further pharmacologically active substances eg., selected from antiobesity agents, antidiabetics, antihypertensive agents, agents for the treatment and/or prevention of complications resulting from or associated with diabetes and agents for the treatment and/or prevention of complications and disorders resulting from or associated with obesity.

25 Thus, in a further aspect of the invention the present compounds may be administered in combination with one or more antiobesity agents or appetite regulating agents.

Such agents may be selected from the group consisting of CART (cocaine amphetamine regulated transcript) agonists, NPY (neuropeptide Y) antagonists, MC4 (melanocortin 4) agonists, orexin antagonists, TNF (tumor necrosis factor) agonists, CRF (corticotropin releasing factor) agonists, CRF BP (corticotropin releasing factor binding protein) antagonists, urocortin agonists, $\beta 3$ agonists, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, MCH (melanocyte-concentrating hormone) antagonists, CCK (cholecystokinin) agonists, serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, serotonin and noradrenaline re-uptake inhibitors, mixed serotonin and noradrenergic compounds, 5HT (serotonin) agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin
35 antagonists, growth hormone, growth hormone releasing compounds, TRH (thyreotropin re-

leasing hormone) agonists, UCP 2 or 3 (uncoupling protein 2 or 3) modulators, leptin agonists, DA agonists (bromocriptin, dorexin), lipase/amylase inhibitors, RXR (retinoid X receptor) modulators or TR β agonists.

In one embodiment of the invention the antiobesity agent is leptin.

5 In another embodiment the antiobesity agent is dexamphetamine or amphetamine.

In another embodiment the antiobesity agent is fenfluramine or dexfenfluramine.

In still another embodiment the antiobesity agent is sibutramine.

In a further embodiment the antiobesity agent is orlistat.

In another embodiment the antiobesity agent is mazindol or phentermine.

10 Suitable antidiabetics comprise insulin, GLP-1 (glucagon like peptide-1) derivatives such as those disclosed in WO 98/08871 to Novo Nordisk A/S, which is incorporated herein by reference as well as orally active hypoglycaemic agents.

The orally active hypoglycaemic agents preferably comprise sulphonylureas, biguanides, meglitinides, glucosidase inhibitors, glucagon antagonists such as those disclosed in
15 WO 99/01423 to Novo Nordisk A/S and Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., GLP-1 agonists, potassium channel openers such as those disclosed in WO 97/26265 and WO 99/03861 to Novo Nordisk A/S which are incorporated herein by reference, DPP-IV (dipeptidyl peptidase-IV) inhibitors, inhibitors of hepatic enzymes involved in stimulation of gluconeogenesis and/or glycogenolysis, glucose uptake modulators, compounds modifying the lipid metabolism such
20 as antihyperlipidemic agents and antilipidemic agents as HMG CoA inhibitors (statins), compounds lowering food intake, RXR agonists and agents acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel of the β -cells.

In one embodiment of the invention the present compounds are administered in combination with insulin.

25 In a further embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with a sulphonylurea eg. tolbutamide, glibenclamide, glipizide or glicazide.

In another embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with a biguanide eg. metformin.

In yet another embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination
30 with a meglitinide eg. repaglinide or senaglinide.

In a further embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with an α -glucosidase inhibitor eg. miglitol or acarbose.

In another embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with an agent acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel of the β -cells eg. tolbutamide,
35 glibenclamide, glipizide, glicazide or repaglinide.

Furthermore, the present compounds may be administered in combination with nateglinide.

In still another embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with an antihyperlipidemic agent or antilipidemic agent eg. cholestyramine, colestipol, clofibrate, gemfibrozil, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, tesaglitazar, EML-4156, LY-518674, LY-519818, MK-767, atorvastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, cerivastatin, acipimox, ezetimibe, probucol, dextrothyroxine or nicotinic acid.

In yet another embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with a thiazolidinedione e.g. troglitazone, ciglitazone, pioglitazone or rosiglitazone.

In a further embodiment the present compounds are administered in combination with more than one of the above-mentioned compounds eg. in combination with a sulphonylurea and metformin, a sulphonylurea and acarbose, repaglinide and metformin, insulin and a sulphonylurea, insulin and metformin, insulin, insulin and lovastatin, etc.

Furthermore, the present compounds may be administered in combination with one or more antihypertensive agents. Examples of antihypertensive agents are β -blockers such as alprenolol, atenolol, timolol, pindolol, propranolol and metoprolol, ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitors such as benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, quinapril and ramipril, calcium channel blockers such as nifedipine, felodipine, nicardipine, isradipine, nimodipine, diltiazem and verapamil, and α -blockers such as doxazosin, urapidil, prazosin and terazosin. Further reference can be made to Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 19th Edition, Gennaro, Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1995.

It should be understood that any suitable combination of the compounds according to the invention with one or more of the above-mentioned compounds and optionally one or more further pharmacologically active substances are considered to be within the scope of the present invention.

The present invention also relates to a process for the preparation of the above said novel compounds, their derivatives, their analogs, their tautomeric forms, their stereoisomers, their polymorphs, their pharmaceutically acceptable salts or pharmaceutically acceptable solvates.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

The compounds of the invention may be administered alone or in combination with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients, in either single or multiple doses. The pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention may be formulated with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents as well as any other known adjuvants and ex-

cipients in accordance with conventional techniques such as those disclosed in Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 19th Edition, Gennaro, Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1995. The compositions may appear in conventional forms, for example capsules, tablets, aerosols, solutions, suspensions or topical applications.

5 Typical compositions include a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, associated with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient which may be a carrier or a diluent or be diluted by a carrier, or enclosed within a carrier which can be in the form of a capsule, sachet, paper or other container. In making the compositions, conventional techniques for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions
10 may be used. For example, the active compound will usually be mixed with a carrier, or diluted by a carrier, or enclosed within a carrier which may be in the form of a ampoule, capsule, sachet, paper, or other container. When the carrier serves as a diluent, it may be solid, semi-solid, or liquid material which acts as a vehicle, excipient, or medium for the active compound. The active compound can be adsorbed on a granular solid container for
15 example in a sachet. Some examples of suitable carriers are water, salt solutions, alcohols, polyethylene glycols, polyhydroxyethoxylated castor oil, peanut oil, olive oil, gelatine, lactose, terra alba, sucrose, cyclodextrin, amylose, magnesium stearate, talc, gelatin, agar, pectin, acacia, stearic acid or lower alkyl ethers of cellulose, silicic acid, fatty acids, fatty acid amines, fatty acid monoglycerides and diglycerides, pentaerythritol fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene,
20 hydroxymethylcellulose and polyvinylpyrrolidone. Similarly, the carrier or diluent may include any sustained release material known in the art, such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate, alone or mixed with a wax. The formulations may also include wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, preserving agents, sweetening agents or flavouring agents. The formulations of the invention may be formulated so as to provide quick,
25 sustained, or delayed release of the active ingredient after administration to the patient by employing procedures well known in the art.

 The pharmaceutical compositions can be sterilized and mixed, if desired, with auxiliary agents, emulsifiers, salt for influencing osmotic pressure, buffers and/or colouring substances and the like, which do not deleteriously react with the active compounds.

30 The route of administration may be any route, which effectively transports the active compound to the appropriate or desired site of action, such as oral, nasal, pulmonary, transdermal or parenteral e.g. rectal, depot, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraurethral, intramuscular, intranasal, ophthalmic solution or an ointment, the oral route being preferred.

 If a solid carrier is used for oral administration, the preparation may be tableted,
35 placed in a hard gelatin capsule in powder or pellet form or it can be in the form of a troche or

lozenge. If a liquid carrier is used, the preparation may be in the form of a syrup, emulsion, soft gelatin capsule or sterile injectable liquid such as an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid suspension or solution.

For nasal administration, the preparation may contain a compound of formula I
 5 dissolved or suspended in a liquid carrier, in particular an aqueous carrier, for aerosol application. The carrier may contain additives such as solubilizing agents, e.g. propylene glycol, surfactants, absorption enhancers such as lecithin (phosphatidylcholine) or cyclodextrin, or preservatives such as parabenes.

For parenteral application, particularly suitable are injectable solutions or suspen-
 10 sions, preferably aqueous solutions with the active compound dissolved in polyhydroxylated castor oil.

Tablets, dragees, or capsules having talc and/or a carbohydrate carrier or binder or the like are particularly suitable for oral application. Preferable carriers for tablets, dragees, or capsules include lactose, corn starch, and/or potato starch. A syrup or elixir can be used in
 15 cases where a sweetened vehicle can be employed.

A typical tablet which may be prepared by conventional tableting techniques may contain:

Core:

	Active compound (as free compound or salt thereof)	5 mg
20	Colloidal silicon dioxide (Aerosil)	1.5 mg
	Cellulose, microcryst. (Avicel)	70 mg
	Modified cellulose gum (Ac-Di-Sol)	7.5 mg
	Magnesium stearate	Ad.

25 Coating:

	HPMC approx.	9 mg
	*Mywacett 9-40 T approx.	0.9 mg

*Acylated monoglyceride used as plasticizer for film coating.

30

If desired, the pharmaceutical composition of the invention may comprise the compound of formula (I) in combination with further pharmacologically active substances such as those described in the foregoing.

The compounds of the invention may be administered to a mammal, especially a human in need of such treatment, prevention, elimination, alleviation or amelioration of diseases related to the regulation of blood sugar.

Such mammals include also animals, both domestic animals, e.g. household pets,
5 and non-domestic animals such as wildlife.

The compounds of the invention are effective over a wide dosage range. A typical oral dosage is in the range of from about 0.001 to about 100 mg/kg body weight per day, preferably from about 0.01 to about 50 mg/kg body weight per day, and more preferred from about 0.05 to about 10 mg/kg body weight per day administered in one or more dosages
10 such as 1 to 3 dosages. The exact dosage will depend upon the frequency and mode of administration, the sex, age, weight and general condition of the subject treated, the nature and severity of the condition treated and any concomitant diseases to be treated and other factors evident to those skilled in the art.

The formulations may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form by methods
15 known to those skilled in the art. A typical unit dosage form for oral administration one or more times per day such as 1 to 3 times per day may contain of from 0.05 to about 1000 mg, preferably from about 0.1 to about 500 mg, and more preferred from about 0.5 mg to about 200 mg.

Any novel feature or combination of features described herein is considered
20 essential to this invention.

EXAMPLES

The following examples and general procedures refer to intermediate compounds and final products identified in the specification and in the synthesis schemes. The preparation of the compounds of the present invention is described in detail using the following examples.
25 Occasionally, the reaction may not be applicable as described to each compound included within the disclosed scope of the invention. The compounds for which this occurs will be readily recognised by those skilled in the art. In these cases the reactions can be successfully performed by conventional modifications known to those skilled in the art, that is, by appropriate protection of interfering groups, by changing to other conventional reagents, or
30 by routine modification of reaction conditions. Alternatively, other reactions disclosed herein or otherwise conventional will be applicable to the preparation of the corresponding compounds of the invention. In all preparative methods, all starting materials are known or may easily be prepared from known starting materials. The structures of the compounds are con-

firmed by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). NMR shifts (δ) are given in parts per million (ppm). Mp is melting point and is given in $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

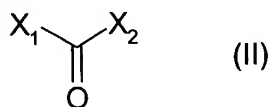
The abbreviations as used in the examples have the following meaning:

- 5 THF: tetrahydrofuran
DMSO: dimethylsulfoxide
CDCl₃: deuterated chloroform
DMF: N,N-dimethylformamide
min: minutes
h: hours

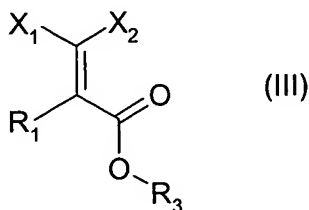
10 General procedure (A)

Step A:

Reacting a compound of formula (II)



- 15 wherein X₁ and X₂ are defined as above, through a Wittig-like process with for example (EtO)₂PO(CHR₁)COOR₃ (wherein R₃ is an alkyl group), in the presence of a base such as sodium hydride, EtONa and the like to give a compound of formula (III)



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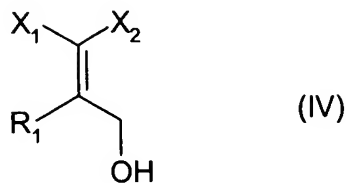
wherein X₁, X₂, R₁ and R₃ are defined as above

Step B:

Reducing the compound of formula (III), wherein X₁, X₂, R₁ and R₃ are defined as above with a suitable reagent such as diisobutylaluminium hydride, to give a compound of

25 formula (IV)

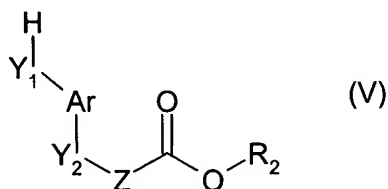
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wherein X_1 , X_2 and R_1 are defined as above, and

Step C:

- 5 Reacting the compound of formula (IV), wherein X_1 , X_2 and R_1 are defined as above, (except that when X_1 or X_2 are substituted with hydroxy, this functionality has to be protected) with a compound of formula (V)



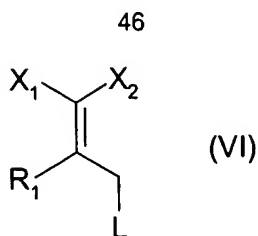
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wherein Y_1 , Ar , Y_2 , Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, under Mitsunobu conditions, using a reagent such as triphenylphosphine/diethylazodicarboxylate and the like to obtain a compound of formula (I), wherein X_1 , X_2 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar , Z , R_1 and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen.

15 General procedure (B)

Step A:

- 20 Converting the -OH functionality in the compound of formula (IV), wherein X_1 , X_2 and R_1 are defined as above, to an appropriate leaving group (L) such as p-toluenesulfonate, methanesulfonate, halogen (for example by methods according to: Houben-Weyl, Methoden der organischen Chemie, Alkohole III, 6/1b, Thieme-Verlag 1984, 4th Ed., pp. 927-939; Comprehensive Organic Transformations. A guide to functional group preparations, VCH Publishers 1989, 1st Ed., pp. 353-363 and *J. Org. Chem.*, Vol. 36 (20), 3044-3045, 1971), triflate and the like, to give a compound of formula (VI)



wherein, X_1 , X_2 , R_1 and L are defined as above.

Step B:

Reacting the compound of formula (VI) wherein L is a leaving group such as p-toluenesulfonate, methanesulfonate, halogen, triflate and the like and wherein X_1 , X_2 and R_1 are defined as above with a compound of formula (V) wherein Y_1 , Ar , Y_2 , Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, to give a compound of formula (I) wherein X_1 , X_2 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar , Z , R_1 and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen.

General procedure (C)

Step A:

By chemical or enzymatic saponification of a compound of formula (I) wherein X_1 , X_2 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar , Z , R_1 and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, to give a compound of formula (I) wherein X_1 , X_2 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar , Z , R_1 and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is hydrogen.

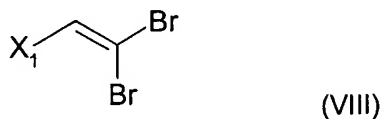
General procedure (D)

Step A:

Reacting a compound of formula (VII)



wherein X_1 is as defined above, with carbon tetrabromide and triphenylphosphine to give a compound of formula (VIII)

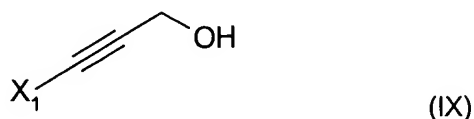


wherein X_1 is as defined above.

Step B:

Reacting the compound of formula (VIII), wherein X_1 is as defined above, with para-formaldehyde in the presence of a strong base like $BuLi$, to give a compound of formula (IX)

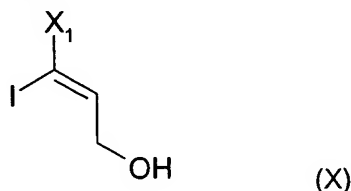
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wherein X_1 is as defined above.

Step C:

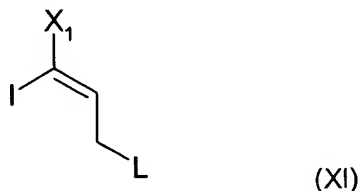
- 5 Reducing the compound of formula (IX), wherein X_1 is as defined above, with LiAlH_4 in the presence of a base, like sodium methoxide, followed by treatment with dimethylcarbonate and iodine to give a compound of formula (X)



wherein X_1 is as defined above.

Step D:

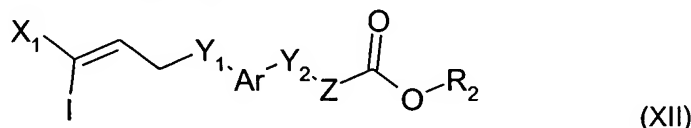
- 10 Converting the hydroxyl function in the compound of formula (X) to a leaving group (L), as described under the General procedure B, to give a compound of formula (XI)



wherein X_1 and L are as defined above.

Step E:

- 15 Reacting the compound of formula (XI), wherein L is a leaving group, such as p-toluenesulfonate, methanesulfonate, halogen, triflate and the like, and wherein X_1 is as defined above, with the compound of formula (V), wherein Y_1 , Ar, Y_2 , Z and R_2 are as defined above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, to give a compound of formula (XII)



- 20 wherein X_1 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar, Z and R_2 are as defined above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen.

Step F:

Reacting the compound of formula (XII), wherein X_1 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar, Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, with X_2 -tributyltin in the presence of a palladium

catalyst, like $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$, and tri(*t*.-butyl)phosphine to give the compound of formula (I), wherein X_1 , X_2 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar, Z, R_1 and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is not hydrogen.

General procedure (E)

5 Step A:

Reacting a compound of formula X_1 -halogen, wherein X_1 is as defined above, under Heck like conditions with propargylalcohol in the presence of a palladium catalyst, like $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$, and cubber(I) to give the compound of formula (IX), wherein X_1 is as defined above.

10 General procedure (F)

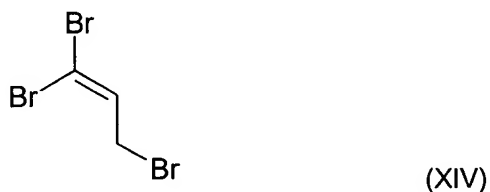
Step A:

Reacting the compound of formula (X), wherein X_1 is defined as above, with X_2 -tributyltin in the presence of a palladium catalyst, like $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$, and tri(*t*.-butyl)phosphine to give a compound of formula (IV), wherein X_1 and X_2 , are defined as above and R_1 is hydro-
15 gen.

General procedure (G)

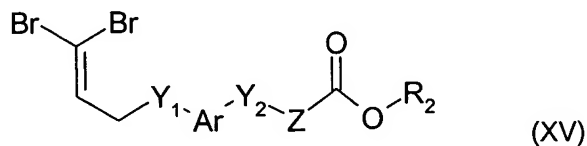
Step A:

Reacting the compound of formula (XIV)



20

with the compound of formula (V) wherein Y_1 , Ar, Y_2 , Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, to obtain the compound of formula (XV)

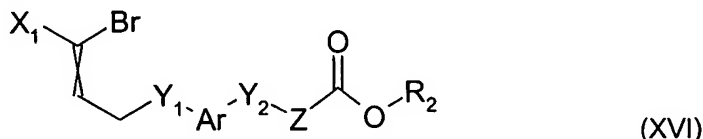


25

wherein Y_1 , Ar, Y_2 , Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen.

Step B:

- Performing a cross-coupling reaction between the compound of formula (XV), wherein Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar, Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, with in example an appropriate boronic acid $X_1-B(OH)_2$ (Suzuki Cross-Coupling conditions) or alternatively with in example X_1-SnBu_3 (Stille Cross-Coupling conditions) to give a compound of formula (XVI)



wherein X_1 , Y_1 , Ar, Y_2 , Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen.

10 **Step C:**

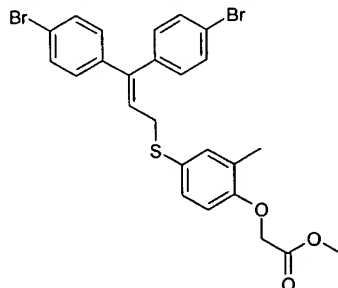
- Performing a cross-coupling reaction between the compound of formula (XVI), wherein X_1 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Ar, Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen, with in example an appropriate boronic acid $X_2-B(OH)_2$ (Suzuki Cross-Coupling conditions) or alternatively with in example X_2-SnBu_3 (Stille Cross-Coupling conditions) to give the compound of formula (I) wherein X_1 , X_2 , Y_1 , Ar, Y_2 , Z and R_2 are defined as above, except that R_2 is not hydrogen.

Using a combination of the above methods, or methods analogous hereof, various compounds may be made within the scope of the present invention.

- 20 The present invention is further exemplified by the following examples, which illustrate the preparation of the compounds according to the invention. The examples are, however, not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way.

Example 1 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester



Step A:

To a solution of NaH (3.53 g, 88.2 mmol) in dry toluene (300 ml) was added dropwise at 0 °C a solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (13.2 g, 58.8 mmol) in toluene (100 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. after which a solution of 4,4-dibromobenzophenone (10.0 g, 29.4 mmol) in THF (100 ml) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h. Ethanol (10 ml) and water (300 ml) were added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate-methanol (2%, 2×150 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: ether) to give ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-bromophenyl)-acrylate as a gum. Crystallization from hexanes gave white crystals in 8.77 g (73%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 1.20 (3H, t), 4.05 (2H, q), 6.35 (1H, s), 7.0-7.1 (4H, dm), 7.40-7.52 (4H, dm).

Step B:

Ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-bromophenyl)-acrylate (8.75 g, 21.3 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (35 ml). DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 43 ml, 64.0 mmol) was added at -15 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. A solution of ammonium chloride in water was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×50 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to give 3,3-bis-(4-bromophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol in 6.0 g (76%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 1.15 (1H, br s), 4.16-4.20 (2H, dd), 6.25 (1H, t), 7.0-7.1 (4H, dm), 7.40-7.52 (4H, dm).

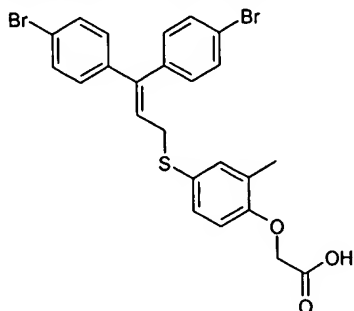
Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-bromophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (2.98 g, 8.1 mmol) and tributylphosphine (2.4 g, 12.1 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (150 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (3.1 g, 12.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (2.06 g, 9.7 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 2 h at 0 °C. Water (100 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (2×150 ml). The combined organic phases were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) to give 4.0 g (88%) of the title compound.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 2.20 (3H, s), 3.44 (2H, d), 3.78 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.11 (1H, t), 6.55 (1H, d), 6.73 (2H, d), 6.98 (2H, d), 7.10 (2H, bs), 7.38 (2H, d), 7.43 (2H, d).

Example 2 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

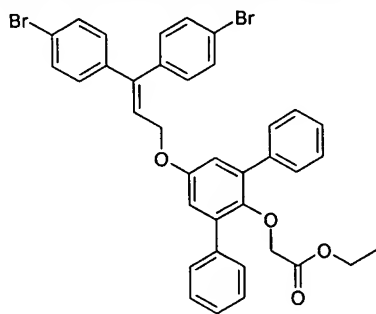
**Step A:**

5 A solution of {4-[3,3-bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (example 1) (530 mg, 0.94 mmol) in ethanol (20 ml) and 1M NaOH (2.0 ml, 2.0 mmol) was stirred at room temp. for 2 h. The reaction mixture added water (20 ml) and 1N HCl (3.0 ml). The water phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2×50 ml) and the combined organic phases were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to give 482 mg
10 (93%) of the title compound.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 2.20 (3H, s), 3.45 (2H, d), 4.68 (2H, s), 6.10 (1H, t), 6.58 (1H, d), 6.75 (2H, d), 6.98 (2H, d), 7.10-7.13 (2H, m), 7.38 (2H, d), 7.43 (2H, d).

Example 3 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2,6-diphenyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester



15

Step C:

a) A mixture of 4-acetoxy-2,6-diphenylphenol (6.1 g, 20 mmol; prepared as described in Ber. 101, 2519 (1968)), ethyl bromoacetate (4.0 g, 24 mmol), potassium carbonate (3.3 g, 24 mmol) and 2-butanone (150 ml) was refluxed for 24 h, then filtered and the solvent evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (120 g, eluent
20 benzene) to give 7.2 g (92 %) of oily ethyl 4-acetoxy-2,6-diphenylphenoxyacetate .

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.64 (m, 4H); 7.37 (m, 6H); 7.08 (s, 2H); 3.93 (q, $J=7.1$, 2H); 3.79 (s, 2H); 1.07 (t, $J=7.1$, 3H).

b) Ethyl 4-acetoxy-2,6-diphenylphenoxyacetate (7.2 g, 18.5 mmol) was dissolved in wet toluene (400 ml) and a catalyst (25 g SiO_2 treated with a solution of 2 g 4-toluenesulfonic acid in 10 ml acetone and evaporated in vacuo) was added. The mixture was stirred and heated at 100 °C for 6 h, cooled and filtered through a column of silica gel (50 g). Elution with benzene afforded 3.6 g (56 %) of (2,6-diphenyl-4-hydroxy-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester as white crystals, which were recrystallized from benzene/petroleum ether. M.p. 91-93 °C.

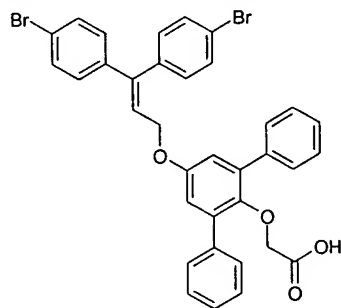
^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.05 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H); 3.92 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H); 3.73 (s, 2H); 6.82 (s, 2H); 7.60 (m, 4H); 7.35 (m, 6H).

c) 3,3-Bis-(4-bromophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (example 1, step B) (184 mg, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (5 ml) and (2,6-diphenyl-4-hydroxy-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (209 mg, 0.6 mmol) and tributylphosphine (150 mg, 0.7 mmol) was added under an atmosphere of nitrogen. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and 1,1'-(azodicarbonyl)-dipiperidine (ADDP) (185 mg, 0.7 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3×15 ml). The combined organic phases were dried with MgSO_4 , filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: heptane/ethyl acetate (6:1)) to give 170 mg of the title compound.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ 1.05 (3H, t), 3.72 (2H, s), 3.90 (3H, q), 4.58 (2H, d), 6.32 (1H, t), 6.78 (2H, s), 7.02 (2H, d), 7.10 (2H, d), 7.20-7.43 (8H, m), 7.45 (2H, d), 7.58 (4H, d).

Example 4 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2,6-diphenyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



25 Step A:

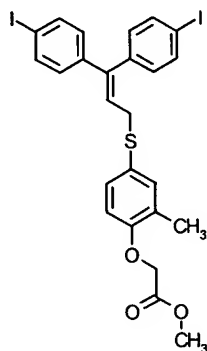
A solution of {4-[3,3-bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (example 3) (102 mg, 0.15 mmol) in ethanol (4 ml) and 1M NaOH (1.0 ml, 1.0 mmol) was stirred at room temp. for 16 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated in

vacuo, added 1N HCl (1.2 ml) and the product extracted with dichloromethane (2×15 ml). The combined organic phases were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to give the title compound as an oil. The residue was precipitated as an L-arginine salt. Yield 117 mg (95%).

- 5 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 3.74 (2H, s), 4.57 (2H, d), 6.31 (1H, t), 6.79 (2H, s), 7.03 (2H, d), 7.10 (2H, d), 7.35-7.50 (10H, m), 7.53 (4H, d).

Example 5 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester



10 **Step A:**

To a 0 °C solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (11.7 g, 52.4 mmol) in THF (230 ml) was added over 5 min a solution of NaH 60% in oil (2.6 g; 109 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min after which 4,4-diiodobenzophenone (18.8 g, 42.4 mmol; Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. 1999, 72, 115-120) was added over 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred over
 15 night at room temperature. Water (5 ml) was added followed by decalite. The mixture was evaporated and the solid residue was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 200 ml). The combined organic phases were evaporated to give crude product in 17.9 g (80%) yield. Purification by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) gave ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-iodophenyl)-acrylate as an oil in 9.6 g (43%) yield.

- 20 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 1.15 (3H, t), 4.07 (2H, q), 6.35 (1H, s), 6.90-7.02 (4H, m), 7.63-7.75 (4H, m).

Step B:

- To a solution of ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-iodophenyl)-acrylate (706 mg, 1.4 mmol) in THF (1.5 ml) was added over 45 min a solution of DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 6.3 ml, 9.5 mmol) at -20
 25 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 1 h. A solution of ammonium chloride was added and to the mixture was added ethyl acetate (40 ml) and decalite. The mixture was filtered

and the filter washed with ethyl acetate (100 ml). The combined filtrates were evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane:THF (8:3)) to give 3,3-bis-(4-iodophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol in 541 mg (84%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 1.60 (1H, br s), 4.20 (2H, d), 6.23 (1H, t), 6.84-7.00 (4H, m),
5 7.57-7.75 (4H, m).

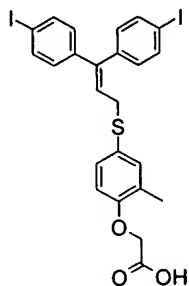
Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-iodophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (540 mg, 1.1 mmol) and tributylphosphine (354 mg, 1.7 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (30 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (442 mg, 1.7 mmol) was added and the
10 reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (298 mg, 1.4 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 4 h at 0 °C to 10 °C. Water (50 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 150 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: heptanes:ethyl
15 acetate (10:1)) to give the title compound in 302 mg (39%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz); δ 2.20 (3H, s), 3.45 (2H, d), 3.78 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.11 (1H, t), 6.55 (1H, d), 6.60 (2H, d), 6.86 (2H, d), 7.11 (2H, s), 7.57 (2H, d), 7.62 (2H, d).

Example 6 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



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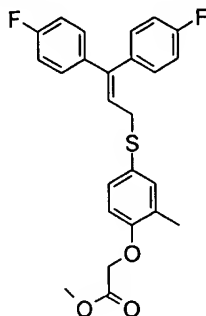
Step A:

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (342 mg, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in warm ethanol (20 ml). 1N NaOH was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h after which it was evaporated. The
25 residue was treated with 1N HCl (1.0 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 320 mg (96%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.18 (3H, s), 3.45 (2H, d), 4.67 (2H, s), 6.10 (1H, t), 6.60 (3H, m), 6.85 (2H, d), 7.10 (2H, ds), 7.55 (2H, d), 7.61 (2H, d).

Example 7 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester



5

Step A:

To a 0 °C solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (18.5 g, 82.5 mmol) in THF (375 ml) was added over 5 min a solution of NaH 60% in oil (7.6 g; 320 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min after which 4,4-fluorobenzophenone (15 g, 68.7 mmol) was added over 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. Water (100 ml) was carefully added and the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 250 ml). The combined extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by Horizon Flashcollector (eluent: heptanes:ethyl acetate (98.5:1.5)) to give ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-acrylate in 11.6 g (59%) yield.

15 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 1.15 (3H, t), 4.06 (2H, q), 6.30 (1H, s), 6.96-7.30 (7.5H, m), 7.83 (0.5H, m).

Step B:

To a solution of ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-acrylate (11.6 g, 40.3 mmol) in THF (215 ml) was added over 45 min a solution of DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 165 ml, 247.5 mmol) at -20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 12 h. A solution of ammonium chloride was and to the mixture was added ethyl acetate (100 ml) and decalite. The mixture was filtered and the filter washed with ethyl acetate (2 x 200 ml). The combined filtrates were evaporated and the residue was purified by Horizon Flash collector (eluent: dichloromethane) to give 3,3-bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol in 6.05 g (61%) yield.

25 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 1.55 (1H, br s), 4.18 (2H, d), 6.16 (1H, t), 6.92-7.33 (8H, m).

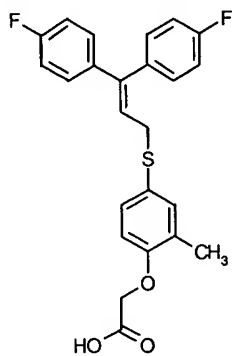
Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (7.5 g, 30.5 mmol) and tributylphosphine (15.4 g, 76.1 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (500 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (15.4 g, 76.2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (7.8 g, 36.5 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 2 h at 0 °C. Water (100 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 150 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether (2 x 100 ml), filtered and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) to give the title compound in 9.6 g (72%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 2.20 (3H, s), 3.45 (2H, d), 3.77 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.06 (1H, t), 6.55 (1H, d), 6.84-7.14 (10H, m).

Example 8 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

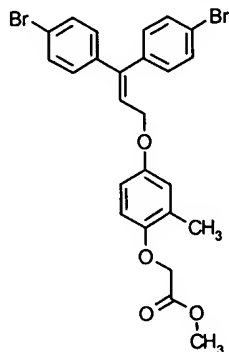
**Step A:**

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (10.05 g, 22.8 mmol) was dissolved in warm ethanol (400 ml). 1N NaOH (35.5 ml, 35.5 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. after which it was evaporated. The residue was treated with water (350 ml) and 1N HCl (41.5 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 750 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 9.23 g (95%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 2.18 (3H, s), 3.48 (2H, d), 4.65 (2H, s), 6.05 (1H, t), 6.57 (1H, d), 6.85-7.15 (10H, m), 10.4 (1H, ds).

Example 9 (General procedure (A))

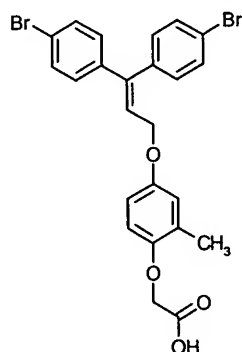
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

**Step C:**

- 5 3,3-Bis-(4-bromophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (1.5 g, 4.1 mmol; example 1, step B), tributylphosphine (2.1 g, 10.3 mmol), and (4-hydroxy-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (1.7 g, 9.1 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) were dissolved in dry THF (500 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (2.6 g, 10.3 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. Water
- 10 (100 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 150 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether (2 x 25 ml), filtered and the filtrate evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: dichloromethane) to give the title compound in 1.9 g (84%) yield.
- 15 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 2.26 (3H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 4.46 (2H, d), 4.57 (2H, s), 6.30 (1H, t), 6.55-6.70 (3H, m), 7.07 (2H, d), 7.10 (2H, d), 7.41 (2H, d), 7.53 (2H, d).

Example 10 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step A:

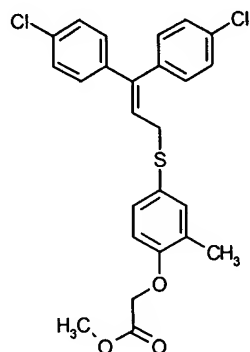
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allyloxy]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (1.9 g, 3.5 mmol) was dissolved in warm ethanol (100 ml). 1N NaOH (7 ml, 7 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 60 °C after which it was evaporated.

- 5 The residue was treated with water (50 ml) and 1N HCl (8 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 250 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 1.8 g (99%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 2.26 (3H, s), 4.48 (2H, d), 4.62 (2H, s), 6.30 (1H, t), 6.55-6.70 (3H, m), 7.02-7.13 (4H, m), 7.42 (4H, d), 7.53 (4H, d).

10 **Example 11 (General procedure (A))**

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

Step A:

- To a solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (8.1 g, 36 mmol) in THF (150 ml) was added over 5 min a solution of NaH 60% in oil (1.2 g; 50 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min after which 4,4-chlorobenzophenone (7.5 g, 30.0 mmol) was added over 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. Water (50 ml) was carefully added and the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 150 ml). The combined extracts were dried and evaporated to give ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-acrylate in 8 g (83%) yield. The compound was used in the next step without further purification.

Step B:

- To a solution of ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-acrylate (8.0 g, 24.9 mmol) in THF (200 ml) was added over 15 min a solution of DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 110 ml, 165 mmol) at -20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 1 h. Methanol (50 ml) was carefully added to the reaction followed by 1N HCl (500 ml). The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 150 ml) and washed with water. The organic phase was dried and evaporated.

The residue was dissolved in methanol (50 ml), washed with heptane and evaporated to give crude 3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol in 8 g (~100%) yield.

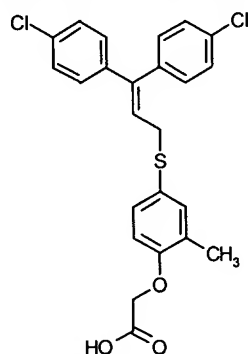
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.55 (1H, br s), 4.20 (2H, d), 6.22 (1H, t), 7.05-7.38 (8H, m).

Step C:

- 5 3,3-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (279 mg, 1 mmol) and tributylphosphine (404 mg, 2 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (15 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (504 mg, 2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (212 mg, 1 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) was slowly added (5 min) and
- 10 the stirring continued for 0.5 h at 0 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by HPLC to give the title compound in 150 mg (32%) yield.
- ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 2.20 (3H, s), 3.47 (2H, d), 3.77 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.12 (1H, t), 6.55 (1H, d), 6.79 (2H, d), 7.02-7.29 (8H, m).

15 **Example 12** (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

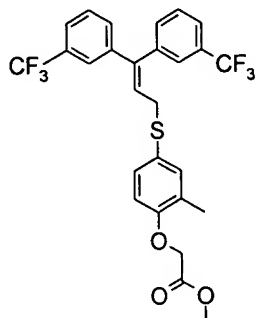


Step A:

- 20 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 0.218 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (3 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 50 mg (10%) yield.
- 25 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 2.18 (3H, s), 3.47 (2H, d), 4.68 (2H, s), 6.10 (1H, t), 6.58 (1H, d), 6.84 (2H, d), 7.03-7.28 (8H, m), 10.1 (1H, ds).

Example 13 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

Step A:

- 5 To a solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (7.4 g, 36 mmol) in THF (150 ml) was added over 5 min a solution of NaH 60% in oil (1.3 g; 54 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min after which 3,3-ditrifluoromethylbenzophenone (9.5 g, 30 mmol) was added over 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred over night at room temperature. Water (200 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 200 ml). The combined organic phases were evaporated to give crude product. Purification by column chromatography (eluent: heptane:ethyl acetate (4:1)) gave ethyl 3,3-bis-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-acrylate as an oil in 8 g (69%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.12 (3H, t), 4.07 (2H, q), 6.45 (1H, s), 7.37-7.72 (8H, m).

Step B:

- 15 To a solution of ethyl 3,3-bis-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-acrylate (8.0 g, 20.6 mmol) in THF (400 ml) was added over 15 min a solution of DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 100 ml, 150 mmol) at -20°C . The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 1 h at 0°C to room temperature. Methanol (50 ml) was carefully added to the reaction followed by 1N HCl (500 ml). The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 250 ml) and the organic phase was washed with water. The organic phase was dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: heptane:ethyl acetate (2:1)) to give crude 3,3-bis-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol in 5 g (72%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.55 (1H, br s), 4.24 (2H, d), 6.36 (1H, t), 7.32-7.67 (8H, m).

Step C:

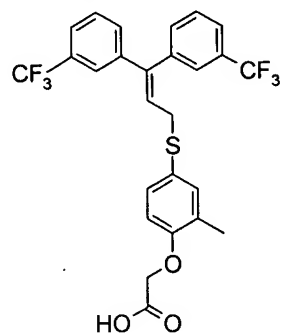
- 25 3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (346 mg, 1 mmol) and tributylphosphine (404 mg, 2 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (15 ml) and cooled to 0°C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (504 mg, 2 mmol) was

added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (212 mg, 1 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 0.5 h at 0 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by HPLC to give the title compound in 150 mg (27%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 2.20 (3H, s), 3.47 (2H, d), 3.87 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.24 (1H, t), 6.57 (1H, d), 7.02-7.60 (10H, m).

Example 14 (General procedure (C))

10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



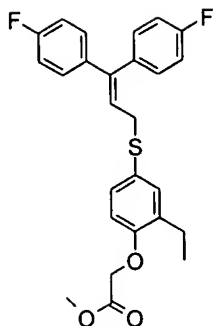
Step A:

{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 0.23 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (3 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 20 mg (5%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 2.19 (3H, s), 3.48 (2H, d), 4.67 (2H, s), 6.24 (1H, t), 6.61 (1H, d), 7.03-7.60 (10H, m).

Example 15 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

**Step C:**

a) A solution of 2-ethylphenol (24.4 g, 200 mmol), potassium carbonate (41.4 g, 300 mmol) and ethyl bromoacetate (36.7 g, 220 mmol) in 2-butanone (250 ml) was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in benzol (100 ml), washed with sodium carbonate solution (5%, 25 ml), dried and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (100 ml) and chlorosulfonic acid (34.9 g, 300 mmol) was added slowly at -5 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. Ice water (25 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 100 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with water, dried and evaporated to give crude (4-chlorosulfonyl-2-ethyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester as an oil. Crystallization from heptane (500 ml) gave the desired product in 31.6 g (52%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.27 (t, 3H), 1.32 (t, 3H), 2.78 (q, 2H), 4.29 (q, 2H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 6.82 (d, 1H), 7.86 (m, 2H).

b) To a refluxing solution of PH₃ (4.3 g, 126.5 mmol) and I₂ (0.7 g, 2.6 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (30 ml) was added slowly a solution of (4-chlorosulfonyl-2-ethyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (15 g, 48.9 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (20 ml). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 24 h. Water (10 ml) was added carefully and the mixture was refluxed for further 1 h after cooling, the reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate diluted with water (100 ml). The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 100 ml), and the organic phases were washed with water. After drying the dichloromethane phase was evaporated to give crude (2-ethyl-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid in 10 g (96%) yield.

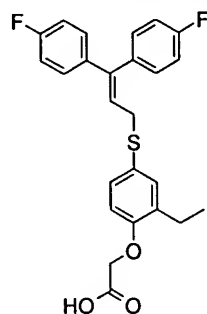
The crude acid was dissolved in methanol (30 ml) and a solution of acetyl chloride (10 g, 47 mmol) in methanol (20 ml) was added slowly at 10 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue purified by column chromatography to give pure (2-ethyl-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester in 2.2 g (21%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.19 (t, 3H), 2.66 (q, 2H), 3.36 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 6.58 (d, 1H), 7.05-7.16 (m, 2H).

- c) 3,3-Bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (246 mg, 1 mmol, example 7 step B) and tributylphosphine (404 mg, 2 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (15 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (504 mg, 2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-ethyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (212 mg, 1 mmol) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 1 h at 10 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by Gilson PREP-1 to give the title compound in 130 mg (28%) yield.
- ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.14 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.47 (2H, d), 3.7 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.13 (1H, t), 6.57 (1H, d), 6.77 (d, 2H), 7.02-7.29 (8H, m).

Example 16 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

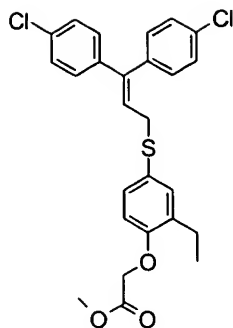


Step A:

- {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 0.22 mmol, example 15) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (15 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 10 mg yield.
- ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.15 (3H, t), 2.61 (2H, q), 3.47 (2H, d), 4.69 (2H, s), 6.13 (1H, t), 6.64 (1H, d), 6.82 (2H, d), 7.03-7.28 (8H, m).

Example 17 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

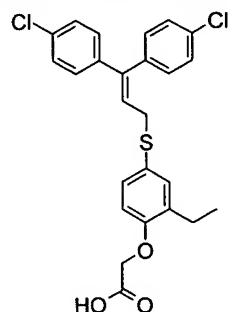
**Step C:**

3,3-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (246 mg, 1 mmol, example 11 step B) and tributylphosphine (404 mg, 2 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (15 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (504 mg, 2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-ethyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (212 mg, 1 mmol, example 15 Step C (b)) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 1 h at 10 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by Gilson PREP-1 to give the title compound in 130 mg (28%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 1.13 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.47 (2H, d), 3.77 (3H, s), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.25 (1H, t), 6.57 (1H, d), 7.00-7.57 (10H, m).

Example 18 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

**Step A:**

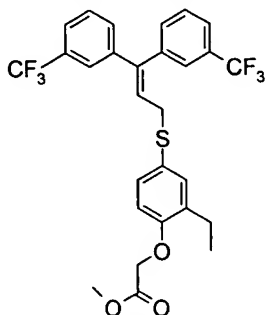
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 0.22 mmol, example 17) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (15 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The

combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 10 mg yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.13 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.47 (2H, d), 4.68 (2H, s), 6.25 (1H, t), 6.64 (1H, d), 7.03-7.63 (10H, m).

5 **Example 19** (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester



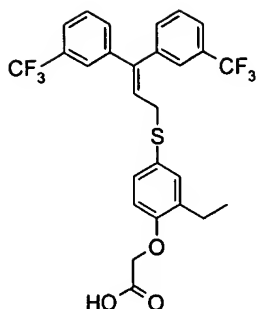
Step C:

3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (246 mg, 1 mmol, example 13 step B) and tributylphosphine (404 mg, 2 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (15 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (504 mg, 2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-ethyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (212 mg, 1 mmol, example 15 Step C (b)) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 1 h at 10 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by Gilson PREP-1 to give the title compound in 130 mg (23%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.15 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.47 (2H, d), 3.75 (3H, s), 4.65 (2H, s), 6.07 (1H, t), 6.57 (1H, d), 6.78-7.32 (10H, m).

20 **Example 20** (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

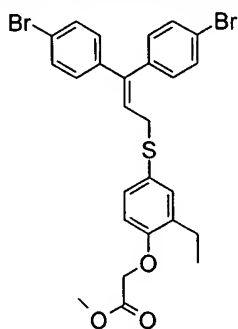
**Step A:**

{4-[3,3-Bis-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 0.22 mmol, example 19) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h. at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (15 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 10 mg yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.15 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.48 (2H, d), 4.68 (2H, s), 6.07 (1H, t), 6.62 (1H, d), 6.83-7.33 (10H, m).

Example 21 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

**Step C:**

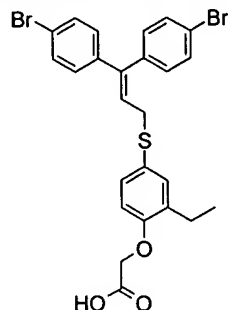
3,3-Bis-(4-bromophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (2.0 g, 5.5 mmol, example 1 step B) and tributylphosphine (1.7 g, 8.5 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (50 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (2.1 g, 8.5 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-ethyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (970 mg, 4.2 mmol, example 15 Step C (b)) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 1 h at 10 °C. Water (20 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and

evaporated. The residue was purified by Gilson PREP-1 to give the title compound in 2.1 g (87%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.13 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.45 (2H, d), 3.77 (3H, s), 4.65 (2H, s), 6.13 (1H, t), 6.55 (1H, d), 6.72 (2H, d), 6.99 (2H, d), 7.08-7.44 (6H, m).

5 **Example 22** (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step A:

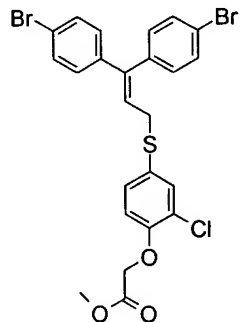
{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-ethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester

10 (350 mg, 0.6 mmol, example 21) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (15 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 130 mg (68%) yield.

15 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 1.13 (3H, t), 2.63 (2H, q), 3.47 (2H, d), 4.69 (2H, s), 6.13 (1H, t), 6.58 (1H, d), 6.74 (2H, d), 6.99 (2H, d), 7.08-7.44 (6H, m), 10.4 (1H, br s).

Example 23 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester



Step C:

a) A solution of 2-chlorophenol (25.7 g, 200 mmol), potassium carbonate (41.4 g, 300 mmol) and ethyl bromoacetate (35.1g, 210 mmol) in 2-butanone (240 ml) was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in toluene (100 ml), washed with water (3 x 25 ml), dried and evaporated. The residue (37 g, 172 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (50 ml) and chlorosulfonic acid (93 g, 800 mmol) was added slowly at -10 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Ice water (25 ml) was added carefully and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 100 ml). The combined organic phases were washed with water, dried and evaporated to give crude (4-chlorosulfonyl-2-chloro-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester as an oil in 47.5 g yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.32 (3H, t), 4.32 (2H, q), 4.85 (2H, s), 6.98 (1H, d), 7.86-8.07 (2H, m).

b) To a refluxing solution of PH₃ (17 g, 500 mmol) and I₂ (2.4 g, 9.4 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (100 ml) was added slowly a solution of (4-chlorosulfonyl-2-chloro-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (47.5 g, 151 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (1000 ml). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 24 h. Water (20 ml) was added carefully and the mixture was refluxed for further 1 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate diluted with water (500 ml). The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 100 ml), and the organic phases were washed with water. After drying the dichloromethane phase was evaporated to give crude (2-chloro-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid in 17 g yield.

The crude acid was dissolved in methanol (50 ml) and a solution of acetyl chloride (24 g, 310 mmol) in methanol (200 ml) was added slowly at 10 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue purified by column chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate:heptane (4:1)) to give pure (2-chloro-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester in 17 g.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 3.44 (1H, s), 3.72 (3H, s), 4.70 (2H, s), 6.75 (1H, d), 7.15 (1H, dd), 7.48 (1H, d).

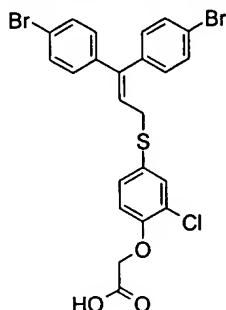
c) 3,3-Bis-(4-bromophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (2.1 mg, 5.5 mmol, example 1 step B) and tributylphosphine (1.7 g, 8.6 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (50 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (2.1 g, 8.6 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-chloro-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (1 g, 4.2 mmol) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 12 h at 5 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate

(2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by Gilson PREP-1 to give the title compound in 2.9 g yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 3.49 (2H, d), 3.78 (3H, s), 4.70 (2H, s), 6.11 (1H, t), 6.69 (1H, d), 6.79 (2H, d), 6.98 (2H, d), 7.12-7.50 (5H, m).

5 **Example 24** (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid



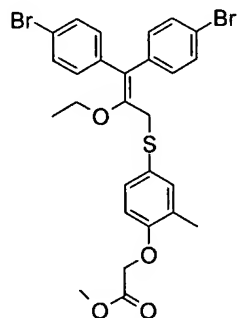
Step A:

10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (350 mg, 0.6 mmol, example 23) was dissolved in ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at 5 °C after which it was treated with 1N HCl (15 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 230 mg (68%) yield.

15 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ : 3.50 (2H, d), 4.75 (2H, s), 6.13 (1H, t), 6.73 (1H, d), 6.83 (2H, d), 6.99 (2H, d), 7.10-7.55 (6H, m), 9.95 (1H, br s).

Example 25 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester



Step A:

To a solution of triethylphosphono-2-ethoxyacetate (3.2 g, 11.9 mmol) and 4,4-bromobenzophenone (2.7 g, 7.9 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was added a solution of NaH 60% in oil (800 mg; 33 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Water (10 ml) was carefully added and the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 25 ml). The combined extracts were dried and evaporated to give crude ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-bromophenyl)-2-ethoxy-acrylate in 3.5 g (97%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 0.98 (3H, t), 1.28 (3H, t), 3.92 (2H, q), 4.03 (2H, q), 7.03 (2H, d), 7.15 (2H, d), 7.43 (4H, m).

Step B:

To a solution of ethyl 3,3-bis-(4-bromophenyl)-2-ethoxy-acrylate (500 mg, 1.1 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was added slowly a solution of DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 625 mg, 4.4 mmol) at -20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 12 h at 0 °C. Methanol, water and 1N HCl were added to the mixture. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 200 ml).

The combined extracts were evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate:heptane (1:5)) to give 3,3-bis-(4-bromophenyl)-2-ethoxy-pro-2-en-1-ol in 400 mg yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.23 (3H, t), 2.05 (1H, br s), 3.84 (2H, q), 4.17 (2H, s), 7.03 (2H, d), 7.14 (2H, d), 7.35-7.47 (4H, m).

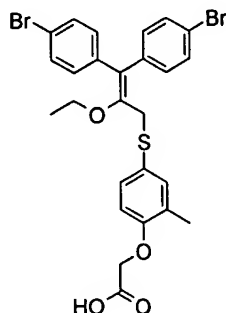
Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-bromophenyl)-2-ethoxy-pro-2-en-1-ol (495 mg, 1.2 mmol) and tributylphosphine (485 mg, 2.4 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (20 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (605 mg, 2.4 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methyl-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (217 mg, 1.0 mmol; Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 2 h at 0 °C. Water (100 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate:heptane (1:3)) to give the title compound in 170 mg (23%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ; 1.23 (3H, t), 2.22 (3H, s), 3.54 (2H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 3.87 (2H, q), 4.64 (2H, s), 6.57 (1H, d), 6.67 (2H, d), 7.09 (2H, d), 7.12-7.47 (6H, m).

Example 26 (General procedure (C))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid

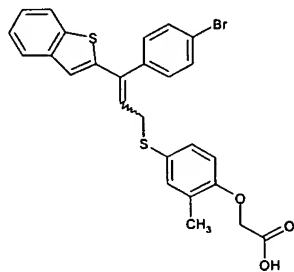
**Step A:**

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-allylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (170 mg, 0.3 mmol, example 25) was dissolved in ethanol (5 ml). 1N NaOH (3 ml, 3 mmol) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, after which it was treated with 1N HCl (15 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 150 mg (90%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 1.22 (3H, t), 2.22 (3H, s), 3.56 (2H, d), 3.86 (2H, q), 4.68 (2H, s), 6.59 (1H, d), 6.68 (2H, d), 7.08 (2H, d), 7.15-7.40 (6H, m).

Example 27 (General procedure (D))

(E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid

**Step A, 1-Bromo-4-(2,2-dibromovinyl)benzene:**

Tetrabromomethane (21.5 g, 65.9 mmol) was added to a cooled solution of 4-bromobenzaldehyde (10.0 g, 54.0 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (30.0 g, 130 mmol) in dry methylene chloride (100 mL). Reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. Subsequently, a saturated solution of sodium hydrogencarbonate (50 mL) was added and the organic layer was washed with water (150 mL), dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and evaporated in vacuo. Triphenylphosphine oxide was removed from the residue by crystalliza-

tion from ethyl acetate and hexane. Evaporation of the mother liquor gave 18.4 g of an yellowish oil. Crude yield: 18.4 g (85%).

R_F (SiO₂, hexane) = 0.70.

Step B, 3-(4-Bromophenyl)prop-2-yn-1-ol:

5 The above bromo derivative (8.0 g, 23 mmol) was dissolved in dry tetrahydrofuran (120 mL) and cooled to -78°C under inert atmosphere. 2M Solution of lithium diisopropylamide in tetrahydrofuran (38 mL, 75 mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture and it was stirred for 2 h under cooling. Finely powdered paraformaldehyde (7.0 g, 230 mmol) was added to the mixture and it was stirred for further 3 h warming up the reaction mixture slowly to the room temperature. Brine (50 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with ether (4x50 mL). The collected organic layers were dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and subsequently evaporated in vacuo. The residue was pre-purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 1:0 - 3:1) and the obtained crude product was further purified by crystallization from ethyl acetate and hexane yielding 3.0 g of the desired product. Yield: 3.0 g (66%). R_F = 0.10 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 9 : 1). ¹H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.24 – 7.49 (m, 4 H); 4.48 (s, 2 H).

Step C, (Z)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-iodoprop-2-en-1-ol:

20 A solution of the above alkyne (2.0 g, 10 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (25 mL) was added dropwise to an ice-cooled solution of lithium aluminum hydride (600 mg, 15 mmol) and sodium methoxide (2 mg, 0.5%) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL). Reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h under nitrogen atmosphere, a solution of dimethyl carbonate (1.2 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) was added dropwise at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for further 1 h. Subsequently, a solution of iodine (5.0 g, 20 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was added and the mixture was allowed to stand overnight in a fridge. Methanol (10mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for further 0.5 h. A saturated solution of sodium thiosulfate (50 mL) and subsequently brine (150 mL) were added and it was extracted with ether (4x150 mL). The collected organic solutions were dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and subsequently evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/methylene chloride 9:1 - methylene chloride - methylene chloride/methanol 3:1) yielding 2.7 g of the product. Yield: 2.7g (84%). R_F = 0.50 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 8:2).

Step D-E, Ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-iodoallylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate:

30 A solution of tetrabromomethane (2.1 g, 6.6 mmol) in dry methylene chloride (20 mL) was added dropwise to an ice-cooled solution of 3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-iodoprop-2-en-1-

ol (1.5 g, 4.4 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (2.4 g, 9.0 mmol) in dry methylene chloride (50 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Under nitrogen atmosphere, N,N-diisopropylethylamine (1.2 g, 9.0 mmol) and ethyl (4-mercapto-2-methylphenoxy)acetate (1.5 g, 6.6 mmol; Bioorg. Med.

- 5 Chem. Lett. 2003, 13, 1517) were added to the residue. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h, filtered through a short path of silica gel and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Merck 60, hexane /ethyl acetate 1:0 - 9:1) giving 0.80 g of the ester. Yield: 0.80 g (40%).
 R_F = 0.55 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 8:2).

10 Step F, Ethyl (Z)-[4-(-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate:

- To a solution of ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-iodoallylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate (369.2 mg, 0.675 mmol) and (benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-tributyltin (571.3 mg, 1.35 mmol, prepared according to Morimoto et al.: J. Med. Chem. 44, 3355 (2001)) in dry N,N-
 15 dimethylformamide (3 mL) Pd₂(dba)₃.CHCl₃ (21.0 mg, 0.020 mmol) was added. Traces of moisture and oxygen were removed and 0.20M solution of tri(tert.butyl)phosphine in cyclohexane (0.44 mL, 0.088 mmol) was added under atmosphere of nitrogen and the whole mixture was stirred at 50°C for 1.5 h. The dark solution was poured into 10% aqueous solution of potassium fluoride (20 mL) and ethyl acetate (30 mL) was added. The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was washed with ethyl acetate (2x10 mL) and the collected organic
 20 layers were washed with brine (10 mL), 10% solution of potassium fluoride (20 mL), water (20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and its evaporation gave an oil that was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1) yielding 235.3 mg of the ester. Yield: 235.3 mg (32%).
 25 R_F = 0.40 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1).

General procedure (C):

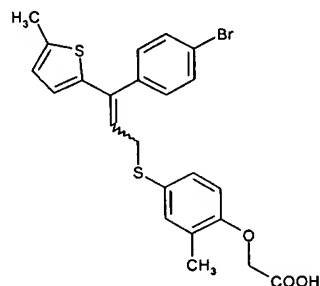
Step A, (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid:

- To a solution of the above ester (235.3 mg, 0.425 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran/ ethanol (1:1, 18 mL) 1.95M solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.247 mL, 0.482 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 3 h and subsequently evaporated in vacuo. The residue was diluted with water (10 mL), acidified with 1M hydrochloric acid to pH 2-3 and extracted with ether (40+15 mL). The collected organic layers were washed with water (25 mL) and brine (30 mL) and dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate.

5 The above acid (126.6 mg, 0.241 mmol) was dissolved in minimal amount of dry methylene chloride (about 1.4 mL), the formed solution was diluted with absolute methanol (10 mL) and L-lysine (30.7 mg, 0.21 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h, evaporated in vacuo and the residue was triturated with anhydrous ether (2x10 mL) yielding 74.4 mg of the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 74.4 mg
10 (46%). M.p.: 130–139°C (amorphous).

Example 28 (General procedure (D))

15 acid



To a solution of ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-iodoallylsulfanyl]-2-methyl-
phenoxy]acetate (418 mg, 0.764 mmol; example 27, step D-E) and tributyl-(5-methyl-
thiophen2-yl)tin (585 mg, 1.51 mmol, prepared in 86% yield according to Morimoto et al.:
J.Med.Chem. 44, 3355 (2001)) in dry N,N-dimethylformamide (9 mL) Pd₂(dba)₃.CHCl₃ (25.0
mg, 0.024 mmol) was added. Traces of moisture and oxygen were removed and 0.20M solu-
tion of tri(tert.butyl)phosphine in cyclohexane (0.43 mL, 0.086 mmol) was added under at-
mosphere of nitrogen and the whole mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and
for further 150 min at 50°C. The dark solution was poured into 10% aqueous solution of po-
tassium fluoride (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (50 mL) was added. The layers were separated,
the aqueous layer was washed with ethyl acetate (2x10 mL) and the collected organic layers

were washed with brine (2x15 mL), 10% solution of potassium fluoride (15 mL), water (2x15 mL) and brine (2x15 mL). The organic solution was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and its evaporation gave an oil that was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) yielding 304 mg of the ester. Yield: 304 mg (77%). M.p.: ---

5 (oil).

R_F = 0.25 (SiO_2 , hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1).

General procedure (C):

Step A, (E/Z)-[4-[3-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid:

10 To a solution of the above ester (304 mg, 0.587 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran/methanol (1:3, 5 mL) a solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (36 mg, 0.858 mmol) in distilled water (0.5 mL) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 60 min and subsequently evaporated in vacuo. The residue was diluted with water (20 mL), neutralized with acetic acid (51 mg, 0.849 mmol) and extracted with ether (3x20 mL). The collected organic
15 layers were washed with water (2x10 mL) and brine (3x10 mL) and dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The oil obtained by its evaporation was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, chloroform + 4-12% of methanol) yielding 190 mg of a mixture of both isomers (ratio about 2:1) of the title acid. Yield: 198 mg (69%). M.p.: 53 - 56°C. R_F = 0.30 (SiO_2 , chloroform/methanol 85:15).

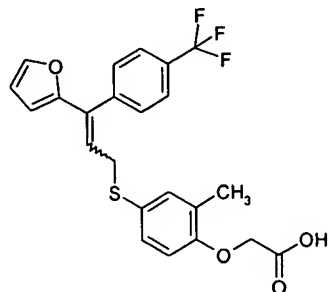
20 ^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 2 H); 7.17 – 7.04 (m, 2 H); 6.83 - 6.63 (m, 4 H); 6.36 (d, 1 H); 6.04 (t, 1 H); 4.57 and 4.54 (s, 2 H); 3.72 and 3.37 (d, 2 H); 2.45 and 2.40 (bs, 3 H); 2.13 and 2.11 (s, 3 H).

The above acid (190 mg, 0.388 mmol) was dissolved in minimal amount of dry methylene chloride (about 0.5 mL), the formed solution was diluted with absolute methanol (5
25 mL) and L-lysine (52 mg, 0.355 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 90 min, evaporated in vacuo and the residue was triturated with anhydrous ether (2x8 mL) yielding 184 mg of the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 184 mg (74 %). M.p.: 129–134°C (amorphous).

30 ^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 7.57 – 6.36 (m, 9 H); 6.05 (t, 1 H); 4.28 and 4.26 (s, 2 H); 3.71 and 3.36 (d, 2 H); 3.26 (m, 1 H); 2.73 (m, 2 H); 2.45 and 2.40 (s, 3 H); 2.13 and 2.10 (s, 3 H); 1.76 – 1.29 (m, 6 H).

Example 29 (General procedure (D))

(E/Z)-[4-[3-(Furan-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid



Step A, 1,1-Dibromo-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethane:

Solution of 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (13.3 mL; 0.1 mol), carbon tetrabromide (36.2 g; 0.11 mol) and triphenylphosphine (28.8 g; 0.11 mol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (250 mL) were stirred overnight. The solid precipitation was filtered off and washed with small amount of dichloromethane. The solution was concentrated, solid material was filtered off again and washed with small amount of dichloromethane. Solvent was evaporated and the product was purified by distillation at oil pump *vacuo* (84-99°C, ~1 torr) giving 28 g (84%) of liquid.

Step B, 3-(4-Trifluoromethyl)-prop-3-yn-1-ol:

To the reaction flask with rubber septum 1,1-dibromo-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethane (21.1 g; 64 mmol) was placed and dissolved in anhydrous THF. The reaction was cooled to -78°C and butyllithium (106 mL, 1.5 M solution in hexane; 0.16 mol) was added slowly. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for additional 0.5 h and paraformaldehyde (4.8 g, 0.16 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred without cooling until reached the room temperature, poured into water and extracted with ethylacetate (3 x). Combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated. Chromatography on silica gel (250 g, gradient elution hexanes-ethylacetate 9:1, 8:2, 7:3) afforded 5.49 g (42 %) of product.

Step C, (Z)-3-Iodo-3-(4-trimethylphenyl)-prop-2-en-1-ol:

The solution of lithium aluminium hydride in THF (33 mL, 1M solution in THF, 33 mmol), sodium methoxide (54 mg, 1 mmol) and THF (30 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. The solution of 3-(4-trifluoromethyl)-prop-3-yn-1-ol (5.49 g; 27.5 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added slowly and stirred 2 h at 0 °C. Dimethylcarbonate (2.78 mL, 33 mmol) was added over 5 min. After 10 min the mixture was cooled to -78 °C and iodine (10 g, 40 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred without cooling until reached the room temperature, and methanol (10 mL) was added. After 1 h the mixture was poured into water, acidified with HCl and extracted with ethylacetate (3x). Combined organic layers were dried with magnesium sulfate

and evaporated. Chromatography on silica gel (hexanes-ethylacetate gradient 9:1-8:2-7:3) afforded 6.42 g (71%) of compound.

Step D-E. Ethyl (Z)-[4-(3-Iodo-3-(4-trimethylphenyl)-prop-2-en-1-yl sulfanyl)-2-methyl-phenyloxy]acetate:

- 5 A solution of (Z)-3-Iodo-3-(4-trimethylphenyl)-prop-2-en-1-ol (3.28 g, 10 mmol), carbon tetrabromide (3.98 g, 12 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (3.14 g, 12 mmol) in methylenechloride was stirred overnight at room temperature under nitrogen. The solution of diisopropylethylamine (20 mL, 116 mmol), water (4 mL, 222 mmol) in THF (40 mL) was added and the reaction was kept under nitrogen atmosphere. The ethyl 4-mercapto-2-methylphenyloxy) acetate (2.94 g, 13 mmol) was added (neat). The reaction was stirred overnight, diluted with ethylacetate and filtered through silica. Solvent was evaporated and mixture was chromatographed on silica gel (100 g, hexan-ethylacetate gradient 95:5 to 80:20) giving 3.96 g (76%).
- 10 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.4-7.6 (m, 4 H); 7.21-7.33 (m, 2 H); 6.62 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 1 H); 6.00 (d, J=7.28.5 Hz, 1 H); 4.22 (q, J=7.28.5 Hz, 2 H); 3.70 (d, 2 H); 2.26 (s, 3 H); 1.27 (s, J=7.28.5 Hz, 3 H).
- 15

Step F. Ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-(Furan-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate:

- To a solution of ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-iodo-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate (417 mg, 0.777 mmol) and tributyl-(furan-2-yl)tin (277 mg, 0.776 mmol; prepared in 78% yield according to Morimoto et al.: J.Med.Chem. 44, 3355 (2001)) in dry N,N-dimethylformamide (5 mL) Pd₂(dba)₃.CHCl₃ (20.2 mg, 0.020 mmol) was added. Traces of moisture and oxygen were removed and 0.20M solution of tri(tert.butyl)phosphine in cyclohexane (0.38 mL, 0.076 mmol) was added under atmosphere of nitrogen and the whole mixture was stirred at 50°C for 90 min. The dark solution was poured into 10% aqueous solution of potassium fluoride (15 mL) and subsequently ethyl acetate (50 mL) was added. The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was washed with ethyl acetate (2x15 mL) and the collected organic layers were washed with brine (2x20 mL), 10% solution of potassium fluoride (2x10 mL), water (2x10 mL) and brine (2x10 mL). The organic solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and its evaporation gave an oil that was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1 + 0.1% of triethylamine) yielding 306 mg of the ester. Crude yield: 306 mg (83%). M.p.: --- (oil).
- 20
- 25
- 30
- R_F= 0.35 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1).

General procedure (C):Step A. (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Furan-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]-acetic acid:

To a solution of the above ester (306 mg, 0.642 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran/methanol (1:3, 8 mL) a solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (46 mg, 1.10 mmol) in distilled water (0.5 mL) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 min and subsequently evaporated in vacuo. The residue was diluted with water (30 mL), neutralized with acetic acid (66 mg, 1.10 mmol) and extracted with ether (3x25 mL). The collected organic layers were washed with water (10 mL) and brine (2x20 mL) and dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate. The oil obtained by its evaporation was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, chloroform + 4-12% of methanol) yielding 163 mg of approximately equimolar mixture of both isomers of the title acid. Yield: 163 mg (57%). M.p.: --- (oil). R_F = 0.30 (SiO₂, chloroform/methanol 85:15).

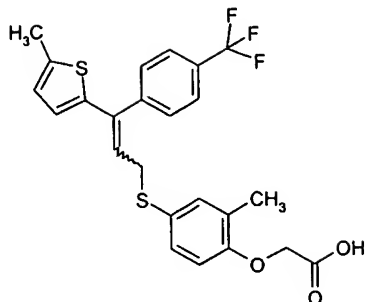
¹H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 7.72 – 6.71 (m, 8 H); 6.55 and 6.43 (m, 1 H); 6.31 and 5.83 (d, 1 H); 6.28 and 5.93 (t, 1 H); 4.67 and 4.61 (s, 2 H); 3.92 and 3.38 (d, 2 H); 2.10 and 2.06 (s, 3 H).

The above acid (153 mg, 0.341 mmol) was dissolved in minimal amount of dry methylene chloride (about 0.5 mL), the formed solution was diluted with absolute methanol (5 mL) and L-lysine (50 mg, 0.342 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, evaporated in vacuo and the residue was triturated with anhydrous ether (2x8 mL) yielding 144 mg of the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 144 mg (71 %). M.p.: 133 – 143°C (amorphous).

¹H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 7.73 – 6.61 (m, 8 H); 6.55 and 6.42 (dd, 1 H); 6.33 and 5.83 (d, 1 H); 6.28 and 5.94 (t, 1 H); 4.28 and 4.23 (s, 2 H); 3.89 and 3.38 (d, 2 H); 3.23 (m, 1 H); 2.72 (m, 2 H); 2.08 and 2.04 (s, 3 H); 1.77 – 1.22 (m, 6 H).

Example 30 (General procedure (D))

(E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-Methylthiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid



Step F, Ethyl (Z)-[4-(5-Methylthiophen-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl)]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate:

To a solution of ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-iodo-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate (413 mg, 0.770 mmol; example 29, step D-E) and tributyl-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)tin (306 mg, 0.790 mmol, prepared in 86% yield according to Morimoto et al.: J.Med.Chem. 44, 3355 (2001)) in dry N,N-dimethylformamide (8 mL) Pd₂(dba)₃.CHCl₃ (24.6 mg, 0.024 mmol) was added. Traces of moisture and oxygen were removed and 0.20M solution of tri(tert.butyl)phosphine in cyclohexane (0.48 mL, 0.096 mmol) was added under atmosphere of nitrogen and the whole mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min and for further 100 min at 50°C. The dark solution was poured into 10% aqueous solution of potassium fluoride (15 mL) and subsequently ethyl acetate (50 mL) was added. The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was washed with ethyl acetate (2x10 mL) and the collected organic layers were washed with brine (2x15 mL), 10% solution of potassium fluoride (15 mL), water (2x15 mL) and brine (2x15 mL). The organic solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and its evaporation gave an oil that was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) yielding 380 mg of the ester. Yield: 380 mg (97%). M.p.: --- (oil).
R_F= 0.30 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1).

General procedure (C):

Step A, (E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-Methylthiophen-2-yl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl)]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid:

To a solution of the above ester (380 mg, 0.750 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran/methanol (1:4, 5 mL) a solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (47 mg, 1.14 mmol) in distilled water (0.5 mL) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 min, neutralized with acetic acid (67 mg, 1.12 mmol) and subsequently evaporated in vacuo. The residue was diluted with water (20 mL), acidified with further portion of acetic acid (about 20 mg) and extracted with ether (3x20 mL). The collected organic layers were washed with water (2x10 mL) and brine (3x10 mL) and dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The oil obtained by its

evaporation was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, chloroform + 3-8% of methanol) yielding 247 mg of a mixture of both isomers (ratio about 3:1) of the title acid.

Yield: 247 mg (69%). M.p.: --- (oil). R_F = 0.30 (SiO_2 , chloroform/methanol 85:15).

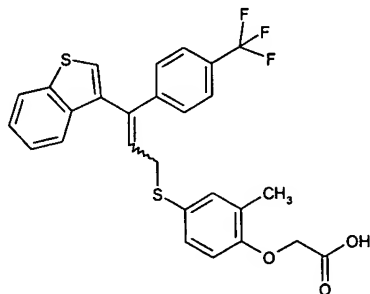
^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): 7.69 – 6.63 (m, 8 H); 6.65 and 6.31 (d, 1 H); 6.13 and 6.08 (t, 1 H); 4.72 and 4.67 (s, 2 H); 3.75 and 3.34 (d, 2 H); 2.43 and 2.39 (s, 3 H); 2.12 and 2.07 (s, 3 H).

The above acid (232 mg, 0.485 mmol) was dissolved in minimal amount of dry methylene chloride (about 0.5 mL), the formed solution was diluted with absolute methanol (5 mL) and L-lysine (68 mg, 0.465 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, evaporated in vacuo and the residue was triturated with anhydrous ether (2x8 mL) yielding 241 mg of the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 241 mg (80 %). M.p.: 131 – 138°C (amorphous).

^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): 7.72 – 6.33 (m, 9 H); 6.16 and 6.10 (t, 1 H); 4.31 and 4.28 (s, 2 H); 3.74 and 3.35 (d, 2 H); 3.27 (m, 1 H); 2.75 (m, 2 H); 2.46 and 2.41 (s, 3 H); 2.13 and 2.08 (s, 3 H); 1.81 – 1.22 (m, 6 H).

Example 31 (General procedure (D))

(E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid



20 Step F, Ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-(benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate:

To a solution of ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-iodo-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate (410.9 mg, 0.766 mmol; example 29, step D-E) and (benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-tributyltin (330.9 mg, 0.782 mmol, prepared in 71% yield according to Morimoto et al.: J. Med. Chem. 44, 3355 (2001)) in dry N,N-dimethylformamide (3 mL) Pd₂(dba)₃.CHCl₃ (23.8 mg, 0.023 mmol) was added. Traces of moisture and oxygen were removed and 0.20M solution of tri(tert.butyl)phosphine in cyclohexane (0.50 mL, 0.1 mmol) was added under atmosphere of nitrogen and the whole mixture was stirred at 90°C for 7.5

- h. The dark solution was poured into 10% aqueous solution of potassium fluoride (20 mL) and subsequently ethyl acetate (30 mL) was added. The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was washed with ethyl acetate (2x15 mL) and the collected organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), 10% solution of potassium fluoride (20 mL), water (20 mL) and
 5 brine (20 mL). The organic solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and its evaporation gave an oil that was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1) yielding 282.2 mg of the ester. Yield: 282.2 mg (67%).
 $R_F = 0.30$ (SiO_2 , hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1).

General procedure (C):

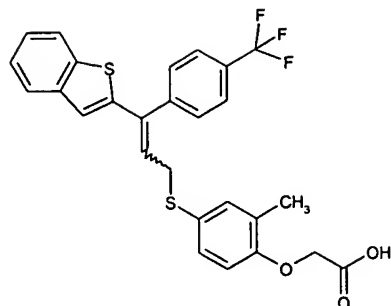
- 10 Step A, (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid:

- To a solution of the above ester (282.2 mg, 0.520 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran/ethanol (1:1, 15 mL) 1.95M solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.331 mL, 0.645 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 2 h and subsequently evaporated in
 15 vacuo. The residue was diluted with water (10 mL), acidified with 1M hydrochloric acid to pH 2-3 and extracted with ether (40+15 mL). The collected organic layers were washed with water (25 mL) and brine (30 mL) and dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The oil obtained by its evaporation was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, chloroform + 1-15% of methanol) yielding 86.6 mg of a mixture of both isomers of the title acid. Yield: 86.6
 20 mg (33%). $R_F = 0.10$ (SiO_2 , chloroform+15% of methanol).

- The above acid (86.6 mg, 0.1683 mmol) was dissolved in absolute methanol (5 mL) and L-lysine (23.6 mg, 0.161 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, evaporated in vacuo and the residue was triturated with anhydrous ether (2x5 mL) yielding 65.3 mg of the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 65.3 mg (59 %). M.p.: 139–
 25 141°C
 ^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 8.12 – 6.78 (m, 12H); 6.53 + 6.16 (t, 1H); 4.30 + 4.28 (s, 2H); 3.70 + 3.43 (m, 2H); 3.17 (m, 1H); 2.69 (m, 2H); 2.13 + 2.11 (s, 3H); 1.72 – 1.27 (m, 6H).

Example 32 (General procedure (D))

- 30 (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid



Step F, Ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate:

To a solution of ethyl (Z)-[4-[3-iodo-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetate (407.1 mg, 0.759 mmol; example 29, step D-E) and (benzo[b] -
 5 methylphenoxy]acetate (327.2 mg, 0.773 mmol, prepared according to Morimoto et al.: J.Med.Chem. 44, 3355 (2001)) in dry N,N-dimethylformamide (3 mL) Pd₂(dba)₃.CHCl₃ (24.1 mg, 0.023 mmol) was added. Traces of moisture and oxygen were removed and 0.20M solution of tri(tert.butyl)phosphine in cyclohexane (0.49 mL, 0.098 mmol) was added under at-
 10 mosphere of nitrogen and the whole mixture was stirred at 60°C for 5 h. The dark solution was poured into 10% aqueous solution of potassium fluoride (20 mL) and subsequently ethyl acetate (30 mL) was added. The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was washed with ethyl acetate (2x15 mL) and the collected organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), 10% solution of potassium fluoride (20 mL), water (20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic
 15 solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and its evaporation gave an oil that was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1) yielding 318.6 mg of the ester. Yield: 318.6 mg (76%).
 R_F = 0.35 (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1).

General procedure (C):

20 Step A, (E/Z)-[4-[3-(Benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid:

To a solution of the above ester (318.6 mg, 0.587 mmol) in a mixture of tetrahydrofuran/ethanol (1:1, 15.4 mL) 1.95M aq solution of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.373 mL, 0.7281 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 3 h and subsequently evapo-
 25 rated in vacuo. The residue was diluted with water (10 mL), acidified with 1M hydrochloric acid to pH 2-3 and extracted with ether (40+15 mL). The collected organic layers were washed with water (25 mL) and brine (30 mL) and dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The oil obtained by its evaporation was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka

60, chloroform + 1-15% of methanol) yielding 191 mg of a mixture of both isomers of the title acid. Yield: 191 mg (63%). $R_F = 0.16$ (SiO_2 , chloroform+15% of methanol).

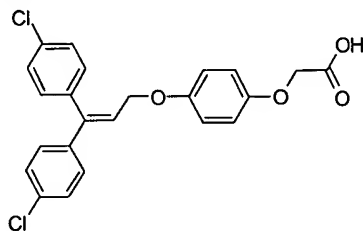
^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.80 – 7.01 (m, 11H); 6.31 + 6.23 (t, 1H); 4.56 + 4.54 (s, 2H); 3.73 + 3.35 (d, 2H); 2.15 + 2.13 (s, 3H).

5 The above acid (177.2 mg, 0.344 mmol) was dissolved in absolute methanol (5 mL) and L-lysine (48.5 mg, 0.332 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, evaporated in vacuo and the residue was triturated with anhydrous ether (2x10 mL) yielding 40.1 mg of the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 40.1 mg (20%).
M.p.: 121 – 132°C (amorphous).

10 ^1H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): 7.91 – 6.61 (m, 12H); 6.39 + 6.31 (t, 1H); 4.23 + 4.21 (s, 2H); 3.72 + 3.38 (d, 2H); 3.15 (m, 1H); 2.71 (m, 2H); 2.04 (s, 3H); 1.71 – 1.29 (m, 6H).

Example 33 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allyloxy]-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step C:

A solution of 3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (200 mg, 0.72 mmol; example 11, step B) and tributylphosphine (361 mg, 1.79 mmol) in dry THF (10 ml) was stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at 0°C. ADDP (451 mg, 1.79 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Hydroxy-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (169 mg, 0.86 mmol) was added over 5 min and the reaction was stirred for 2 hours at 0°C. Water (10 ml) was added to the reaction and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 15 ml). The combined organic phases were dried (MgSO_4), filtered and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether (3 x 10 ml), and the ether phases were evaporated to give crude product.

25 Purification on column chromatography using methylene chloride as eluent gave pure {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allyloxy]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester in 140 mg (43%) yield.
 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ : 1.27 (t, 3H), 4.25 (q, 2H), 4.48 (d, 2H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 6.28 (t, 1H), 6.77 (d, 2H), 6.84 (d, 2H), 7.14 (d, 2H), 7.17 (d, 2H), 7.26 (d, 2H), 7.37 (d, 2H).

General procedure (C):

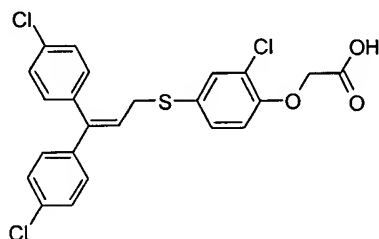
Step A.

A solution of {4-[3,3-bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allyloxy]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester (140 mg, 0.3 mmol) in 1N NaOH (1 ml) and ethanol (10 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in water (5 ml) and 1 N HCl (1.2 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 ml), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give the title compound in 130 mg (99%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 4.50 (d, 2H), 4.62 (s, 2H), 6.30 (t, 1H), 6.77 (d, 2H), 6.85 (d, 2H), 7.09-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d, 2H).

10 **Example 34** (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step C:

A solution of 3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (200 mg, 0.72 mmol; example 11, step B) and tributylphosphine (361 mg, 1.79 mmol) in dry THF (10 ml) was stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at 0°C. ADDP (451 mg, 1.79 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (2-Chloro-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (212 mg, 0.86 mmol; example 23) was added over 5 min and the reaction was stirred for 2 hours at 0°C. Water (10 ml) was added to the reaction and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 15 ml). The combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether (3 x 10 ml), and the ether phases were evaporated to give crude product. Purification on column chromatography using methylene chloride as eluent gave pure {{4-[3,3-bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester in 100 mg (27%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 1.26 (t, 3H), 3.49 (d, 2H), 4.24 (q, 2H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 6.08 (t, 1H), 6.69 (d, 1H), 6.86 (d, 2H), 7.05 (d, 2H), 7.12-7.33 (m, 6H).

General procedure C:

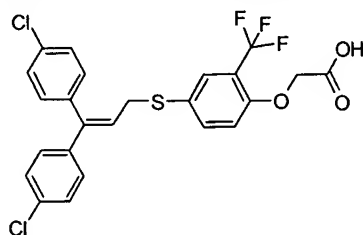
Step A:

A solution of {{4-[3,3-bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-chloro-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester (100 mg, 0.2 mmol) in 1N NaOH (1 ml) and ethanol (10 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in water (5 ml) and 1 N HCl (1.2 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 ml), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give the title compound in 95 mg (100%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ : 3.51 (d, 2H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 6.09 (t, 1H), 6.73 (d, 1H), 6.87 (d, 2H), 7.00-7.75 (m, 8H), 9,7 (br. s, 1H).

Example 35 (General procedure (A))

10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step C:

A solution of 3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (200 mg, 0.72 mmol; example 11, step B) and tributylphosphine (361 mg, 1.79 mmol) in dry THF (10 ml) was stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at 0°C. ADDP (451 mg, 1.79 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (2-trifluoromethyl-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (241 mg, 0.86 mmol; prepared analogous to example 23) was added over 5 min and the reaction was stirred for 2 hours at 0°C. Water (10 ml) was added to the reaction and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 15 ml). The combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether (3 x 10 ml), and the ether phases were evaporated to give crude product. Purification on column chromatography using methylene chloride as eluent gave pure {{4-[3,3-bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester in 135 mg (35%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 1.26 (t, 3H), 3.49 (d, 2H), 4.24 (q, 2H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 6.10 (t, 1H), 6.74 (d, 1H), 6.82 (d, 2H), 7.05 (d, 2H), 7.23 (d, 2H), 7.29 (d, 2H), 7.42 (d, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H).

General procedure C:

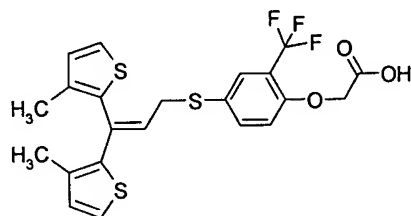
Step A:

A solution of {{4-[3,3-bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) in 1N NaOH (1 ml) and ethanol (10 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in water (5 ml) and 1 N HCl (1.2 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 ml), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give the title compound in 130 mg (100%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ : 3.52 (d, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 6.10 (t, 1H), 6.76 (d, 1H), 6.84 (d, 2H), 7.05 (d, 2H), 7.17-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 9.6 (br. s, 1H).

Example 36 (General procedure (A))

10 {4-[3,3-Bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step A:

To a solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (4.48 g, 19.97 mmol) in ethanol (100 ml) was added a solution of sodium (689 mg, 30 mmol) in ethanol (3 ml) at room temperature.

15 The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min under nitrogen atmosphere. Bis(3-methyl-2-thienyl)ketone (2.22 g, 9.98 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 90°C for 72 hours. The reaction mixture was added to 1 N HCl (pH=2) and extracted with methylene chloride (4 x 50 ml). The combined organic phases were dried, filtered and evaporated to give crude product. Purification on column chromatography using toluene:heptane:THF

20 (2:1:5%) gave 3,3-bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-acrylic acid ethyl ester in 2.11 g (72%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 1.17 (t, 3H), 2.50 (s, 6H), 4.10 (q, 2H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 6.86 (m, 2H), 7.28 (m, 2H).

Step B:

To a solution of 3,3-bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-acrylic acid ethyl ester (2.12 g, 7.27 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was added a solution of DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 33 ml, 49.5 mmol) at -20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 2 h. A solution of ammonium chloride was added followed by methylene chloride (150 ml) and decalite. The mixture was filtered and the filter was washed with additional methylene chloride (500 ml). The combined organic

25

phases were evaporated to give crude product. Purification on column chromatography gave 3,3-bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-prop-2-en-1-ol in 376 mg (21%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 2.02 (d, 6H); 4.18 (d, 2H), 6.21 (t, 1H), 6.78 (d, 1H), 6.85 (d, 1H), 7.08 (d, 1H), 7.23 (d, 1H).

5 **Step C:**

To a solution of 3,3-bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-prop-2-en-1-ol (110 mg, 0.44 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (220 mg, 0.88 mmol) in THF was added, at room temperature and under nitrogen atmosphere, DEAD (153 mg, 0.88 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min after which (2-trifluoromethyl-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (70 mg, 0.25 mmol) was added over 15 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 100 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the crude residue was purified on a Horizon using a methylene chloride:heptanes gradient as eluent. The desired {4-[3,3-bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester was isolated in 75 mg (59%) yield.

15 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 1.25 (t, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 3.57 (d, 2H), 4.24 (q, 2H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 6.05 (t, 1H), 6.72-6.85 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, 1H), 7.22 (d, 1H), 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H).

General procedure (C):

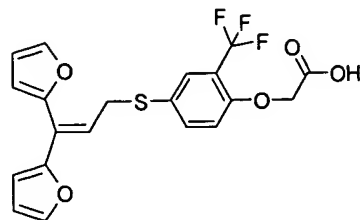
Step A:

20 A solution of {4-[3,3-bis-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester (75 mg, 0.15 mmol) in 1N NaOH (0.02 ml) and ethanol (10 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in 1 N HCl (0.03 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 25 ml), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give the title compound in 70 mg (99%) yield.

25 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 3.57 (d, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 6.04 (t, 1H), 6.70-6.84 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, 1H), 7.70 (d, 1H), 7.44 (dd, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 8.50 (br. S, 1H).

Example 37 (General procedure (A))

30 [4-(3,3-Di-furan-2-yl-allylsulfanyl)-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy]-acetic acid



Step A:

To a solution of triethylphosphonoacetate (4.48 g, 19.97 mmol) in ethanol (100 ml) was added a solution of sodium (689 mg, 30 mmol) in ethanol (3 ml) at room temperature.

- 5 The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min under nitrogen atmosphere. Bis(2-furanyl)ketone (1.62 g, 9.98 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80°C for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was added to 1 N HCl (pH=2) and extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 50 ml). The combined organic phases were dried, filtered and evaporated to give crude product. Purification on column chromatography using methylene chloride gave 3,3-bis-(2-furanyl)-acrylic acid ethyl ester in 1.31 g (57%) yield.

10 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 1.19 (t, 3H), 4.21 (q, 2H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 6.57 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, 1H), 7.30-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H).

Step B:

- 15 To a solution of 3,3-bis-(2-furanyl)-acrylic acid ethyl ester (1.31 g, 5.66 mmol) in THF (15 ml) was added a solution of DIBAL-H (1 M in toluene, 25.5 ml, 25.5 mmol) at -10 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 2 h. A solution of ammonium chloride (2 ml) was added followed by methylene chloride (250 ml) and decalite. The mixture was filtered and the filter was washed with additional methylene chloride (500 ml) and ethanol (100 ml). The combined organic phases were evaporated to give crude 3,3-bis-(2-furanyl)-prop-2-en-1-ol in 953 mg (88%) yield.

20 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 1.98 (s, 1H), 4.59 (d, 2H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 6.60 (t, 1H), 6.73 (d, 1H), 6.97 (d, 1H), 7.08 (d, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H).

Step C:

- 25 To a solution of 3,3-bis-(2-furanyl)-prop-2-en-1-ol (104 mg, 0.55 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (275 mg, 1.09 mmol) in THF (10 ml) was added, at room temperature and under nitrogen atmosphere, DEAD (190 mg, 1.09 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min after which (2-trifluoromethyl-4-mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (230 mg, 0.82 mmol) was added over 15 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 2 hours followed by 18 hours at room temperature and 3 hours at 50°C. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the crude residue was purified on column chromatography using ethyl
- 30

acetate as eluent. The desired {4-[3,3-bis-(2-furanyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester was isolated in 11 mg yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 1.28 (t, 3H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 4.27 (q, 2H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 6.56 (m, 2H), 6.80-7.60 (m, 8H).

5 General procedure C:

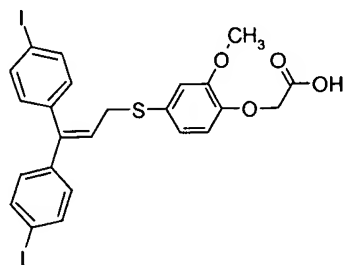
Step A:

A solution of {4-[3,3-bis-(2-furanyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester (35 mg, 0.077 mmol) in 1N NaOH (0.1 ml) and ethanol (5 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in 1 N HCl (0.15 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 25 ml), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give the title compound in 30 mg (92%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 4.03 (s, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 6.55 (s and br. s, 4H), 6.75 (d, 1H), 6.83 (d, 1H), 6.88 (d, 1H), 7.15-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H).

Example 38 (General procedure (A))

15 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid



Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-iodophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (206 mg, 0.44 mmol, example 5 step B) and tributylphosphine (226 mg, 1.1 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (10 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (281 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methoxy-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (298 mg, 1.4 mmol; prepared analogous to example 23) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 1 h at 0 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether. The ether phase was filtered and evaporated to give crude product. Purification by Horizin chromatography (eluent: methylene chloride:heptane (1:1) with gradient to pure methylene chloride) gave {4-[3,3-bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester in 298 mg (100%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz); δ 3.47 (d, 2H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 6.14 (t, 1H), 6.57 (d, 2H), 6.66 (d, 1H), 6.80-6.90 (m, 4H), 7.57 (d, 2H), 7.64 (d, 2H).

General procedure C:

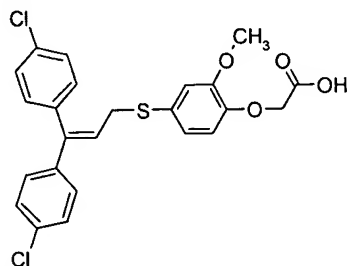
Step A:

5 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (290 mg, 0.43 mmol) was dissolved in warm ethanol (30 ml). 1N NaOH (2 ml) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h after which it was evaporated. The residue was treated with 1N HCl (2.4 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 25 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound
10 in 275 mg (97%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 3.48 (d, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 4.61 (s, 2H), 6.13 (t, 1H), 6.64 (d, 2H), 6.68-6.90 (m, 5H), 7.56 (d, 2H), 7.64 (d, 2H), 8.3-8.6 (br. S, 1H).

Example 39 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid



15

Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (230 mg, 0.82 mmol, example 11 step B) and tributylphosphine (416 mg, 2.06 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (10 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (519 mg, 2.06
20 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-2-methoxy-phenoxy)-acetic acid methyl ester (240 mg, 1.05 mmol; prepared analogous to example 23) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 1 h at 0 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether. The ether phase was filtered and evaporated to give crude product. Purification by Horizin chromatography (eluent:
25 methylene chloride:heptane (1:1) with gradient to pure methylene chloride) gave {4-[3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester in 288 mg (71%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz); δ 4.48 (d, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 6.13 (t, 1H), 6.67 (d, 1H), 6.76-6.90 (m, 4H), 7.05 (d, 2H), 7.22 (d, 2H), 7.27 (d, 2H).

General procedure C:

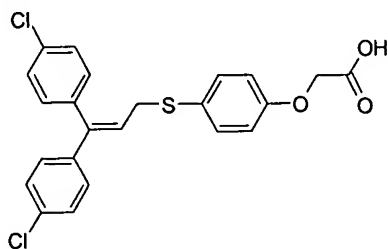
Step A:

5 {4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-2-methoxy-phenoxy}-acetic acid methyl ester (280 mg, 0.57 mmol) was dissolved in warm ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (1 ml) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h after which it was evaporated. The residue was treated with 1N HCl (1.2 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 25 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound
10 in 245 mg (90%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 3.46 (d, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 6.11 (t, 1H), 6.62 (d, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.76-6.90 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, 2H), 7.19 (d, 2H), 7.27 (m, 2H).

Example 40 (General procedure (A))

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chloro-phenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid



15

Step C:

3,3-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-pro-2-en-1-ol (200 mg, 0.72 mmol, example 11 step B) and tributylphosphine (362 mg, 1.79 mmol) were dissolved in dry THF (10 ml) and cooled to 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen. 1,1'-(Azodicarbonyl)dipiperidine (ADDP) (452 mg, 1.79
20 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min. (4-Mercapto-phenoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester (182 mg, 0.86 mmol) was slowly added (5 min) and the stirring continued for 2 h at 0 °C. Water (10 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 25 ml). The methylene phases were dried and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ether. The ether phase was filtered and evaporated to give crude product. Pu-
25 rification by column chromatography (eluent: methylene chloride) gave {4-[3,3-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-allylsulfanyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester in 130 mg (38%) yield.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz); δ 1.28 (t, 3H), 3.46 (d, 2H), 4.25 (q, 2H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 6.11 (t, 1H), 6.82 (m, 4H), 7.05 (d, 2H), 7.16-7.30 (m, 6H).

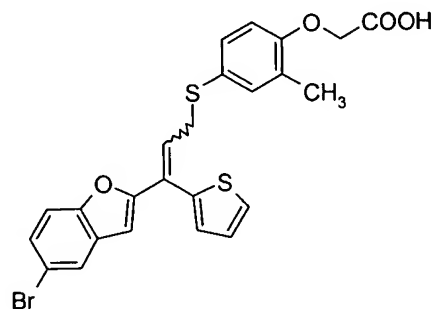
General procedure C:Step A:

{4-[3,3-Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-allylsulfanyl]- phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester (130 mg, 0.27 mmol) was dissolved in warm ethanol (10 ml). 1N NaOH (1 ml) was added at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h after which it was evaporated. The residue was treated with 1N HCl (1.2 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 25 ml). The combined organic phases were dried and evaporated to give the title compound in 48 mg (38%) yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.47 (d, 2H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 6.11 (t, 1H), 6.75-6.86 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, 2H), 7.15-7.32 (m, 6H).

Example 41 (General procedure (A))

(E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-Bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]-acetic acid



Potassium carbonate (12.0 g, 0.087 mol) and subsequently 2-bromo-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethanone (7.0 g, 0.034 mol; prepared as described in J.Med.Chem. 30, 1497 (1987)) were added to a stirred solution of 5-bromosalicylaldehyde (6.9 g, 0.034 mol) in acetone (150 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min at first and then refluxed for 1 h. Solid mass was filtered off, washed with hot acetone (2x50 mL) and the filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue (11.3 g) was crystallized from ethanol (15 mL) giving (5-bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-(thiophen-2-yl)methanone. Yield: 8.0 g (77%). M.p. 84-86 °C. R_F (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 3:1) 0.70.

Step A:

In atmosphere of nitrogen, 2M solution of lithium diisopropylamide in tetrahydrofuran/ heptane/ethylbenzene (33 mL, 66.0 mmol) was added dropwise to an ice-water cooled solution of triethyl phosphonoacetate (12 mL, 60.0 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (180 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min, a solution of the above methanone

(9.2 g, 30.0 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (92 mL) was added dropwise and the whole mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 39 h. The mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (150 mL), washed with water (150 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (200 mL), brine (200 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and evaporated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1) of the obtained residue gave (E/Z)-3-(5-bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)acrylic acid ethyl ester as a yellow oil.

Yield: 8.0 g (71%). R_F (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 9:1) 0.30.

10 Step B:

In atmosphere of nitrogen, a solution of anhydrous aluminum chloride (1.03 g, 7.71 mmol) in dry ether (39 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (0.88 g, 23.1 mmol) in dry ether (74 mL) at -15 °C. The mixture was stirred for 30 min allowing the reaction temperature to reach 0 °C. The suspension was cooled at -15 °C again, a solution of the above ester (2.90 g, 7.71 mmol) in dry ether (39 mL) was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h under cooling. Water (0.6 mL), 10% aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (0.6 mL) and water (1.8 mL) were added dropwise to the cold mixture; the segregated precipitate was filtered off and washed with ether (70 mL). The combined ethereal layers were washed with water (2x50 mL), brine (2x50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and evaporated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 4:1) yielding (E/Z)-3-(5-bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-ol as a white crystalline solid.

Yield: 1.61 g (62%). R_F (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 4:1) 0.30.

¹H NMR spectrum of the main isomer (250 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.71 (dd, J=1.8 and 0.7 Hz, 1 H); 7.43 (dd, J=8.8 and 1.9 Hz, 1 H); 7.37 (dm, J=8.8 Hz, 1 H); 7.29 (dd, J=5.1 and 1.2 Hz, 1 H); 7.10 (m, 1 H); 7.03 (m, 1 H); 6.76 (s, 1 H); 6.35 (t, J=6.6 Hz, 1 H); 4.60 (d, J=6.6 Hz, 2 H).

General procedure B:

Step A-B:

In atmosphere of nitrogen, tetrabromomethane (1.48 g, 4.46 mmol) was added to an ice-cooled solution of the above hydroxy derivative (1.00 g, 2.98 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (1.25 g, 4.77 mmol) in dry methylene chloride (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at ambient temperature, quickly filtered through a short path of silica gel and the filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo*. In atmosphere of nitrogen, tetrahydrofuran (38 mL), N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.94 mL, 5.40 mmol) and a solution of ethyl (4-mercapto-2-

methylphenoxy)acetate (1.27 g, 5.61 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) were added to the residue. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight, filtered, the precipitated solid was washed with tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) and the collected organic solutions were evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Merck 60, hexane/ethyl acetate 15:1) yielding (E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid ethyl ester. Yield: 1.4 g (87%). R_F (SiO₂, hexane/ethyl acetate 4:1) 0.50.

¹H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.60-6.27 (m, ~9 H); 6.73 and 6.22 (t, J=8.3 Hz, 1 H); 6.59 and 6.46 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 1 H); 4.60 and 4.53 (s, 2 H); 4.24 and 4.12 (q, J=7.2 Hz, 2 H); 3.86 and 3.62 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 2 H); 2.21 and 2.08 (s, 3 H); 1.28 and 1.27 (t, J=7.2 Hz, 3 H).

General procedure C:

Step A:

To an ice-water cooled solution of the above ester (206 mg, 0.370 mmol) in a mixture tetrahydrofuran/methanol/water (5:1:1, 7 mL) lithium hydroxide monohydrate (23 mg, 0.548 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 45 min under cooling and subsequently a diluted solution of tartaric acid (5 mL) was added followed by addition of ether (20 mL). The layers were separated, the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (10 mL) and the combined ethereal layers were washed with water (3x10 mL) and brine (2x10 mL) and dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate. The oil obtained by evaporation of the organic solution was purified by column chromatography (silica gel Fluka 60, chloroform/methanol 98:2 – 95:5) yielding (E/Z)-[4-[3-(5-bromobenzo[b]furan-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)allylsulfanyl]-2-methylphenoxy]acetic acid. Yield: 94 mg (48%). M.p. --- (foam). R_F (SiO₂, methylene chloride/methanol 85:15) 0.25.

L-Lysine (25 mg, 0.171 mmol) was added to a solution of the above acid (94 mg, 0.182 mmol) in a minimal amount of methylene chloride (about 0.4 mL) and dry methanol (5 mL). The mixture was stirred for 90 min, evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue twice triturated with anhydrous ether yielding the L-lysinate of the title acid. Yield: 110 mg (91%). M.p. 138–163 °C (amorphous).

¹H NMR spectrum (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 7.86-6.22 (m, ~11 H); 4.19 and 4.15 (s, ~2 H); 3.83 and 3.66 (d, ~2 H); 3.20 (m, 1 H); 2.71 (m, 2 H); 2.09 and 1.93 (s, 3 H); 1.71–1.33 (m, 6 H).

PHARMACOLOGICAL METHODS

In vitro PPARalpha, PPARgamma and PPARdelta activation activity

The PPAR transient transactivation assays are based on transient transfection into human HEK293 cells of two plasmids encoding a chimeric test protein and a reporter protein respectively. The chimeric test protein is a fusion of the DNA binding domain (DBD) from the yeast GAL4 transcription factor to the ligand binding domain (LBD) of the human PPAR proteins. The PPAR-LBD moiety harbored in addition to the ligand binding pocket also the native activation domain (activating function 2 = AF2) allowing the fusion protein to function as a PPAR ligand dependent transcription factor. The GAL4 DBD will direct the chimeric protein to bind only to Gal4 enhancers (of which none existed in HEK293 cells). The reporter plasmid contained a Gal4 enhancer driving the expression of the firefly luciferase protein. After transfection, HEK293 cells expressed the GAL4-DBD-PPAR-LBD fusion protein. The fusion protein will in turn bind to the Gal4 enhancer controlling the luciferase expression, and do nothing in the absence of ligand. Upon addition to the cells of a PPAR ligand luciferase protein will be produced in amounts corresponding to the activation of the PPAR protein. The amount of luciferase protein is measured by light emission after addition of the appropriate substrate.

CELL CULTURE AND TRANSFECTION

HEK293 cells were grown in DMEM + 10% FCS. Cells were seeded in 96-well plates the day before transfection to give a confluency of 50-80 % at transfection. A total of 0,8 µg DNA containing 0,64 µg pM1α/γLBD, 0,1 µg pCMVβGal, 0,08 µg pGL2(Gal4)₅ and 0,02 µg pADVANTAGE was transfected per well using FuGene transfection reagent according to the manufacturers instructions (Roche). Cells were allowed to express protein for 48 h followed by addition of compound.

Plasmids: Human PPAR α, γ and δ was obtained by PCR amplification using cDNA synthesized by reverse transcription of mRNA from human liver, adipose tissue and placenta respectively. Amplified cDNAs were cloned into pCR2.1 and sequenced. The ligand binding domain (LBD) of each PPAR isoform was generated by PCR (PPARα: aa 167 - C-terminus; PPARγ: aa 165 - C-terminus; PPARδ: aa 128 - C-terminus) and fused to the DNA binding domain (DBD) of the yeast transcription factor GAL4 by subcloning fragments in frame into the vector pM1 (Sadowski et al. (1992), Gene 118, 137) generating the plasmids pM1αLBD, pM1γLBD and pM1δ. Ensuing fusions were verified by sequencing. The reporter was constructed by inserting an oligonucleotide encoding five repeats of the GAL4 recognition se-

quence (5 x CGGAGTACTGTCCTCCG(AG)) (Webster et al. (1988), Nucleic Acids Res. 16, 8192) into the vector pGL2 promotor (Promega) generating the plasmid pGL2(GAL4)₅. pCMV β Gal was purchased from Clontech and pADVANTAGE was purchased from Promega.

IN VITRO TRANSACTIVATION ASSAY

- 5 Compounds: All compounds were dissolved in DMSO and diluted 1:1000 upon addition to the cells. Compounds were tested in quadruple in concentrations ranging from 0.001 to 300 μ M. Cells were treated with compound for 24 h followed by luciferase assay. Each compound was tested in at least two separate experiments.

- Luciferase assay: Medium including test compound was aspirated and 100 μ l PBS incl. 1mM Mg⁺⁺ and Ca⁺⁺ was added to each well. The luciferase assay was performed using the LucLite kit according to the manufacturers instructions (Packard Instruments). Light emission was quantified by counting on a Packard LumiCounter. To measure β -galactosidase activity 25 μ l supernatant from each transfection lysate was transferred to a new microplate. β -galactosidase assays were performed in the microwell plates using a kit from Promega and read in a Labsystems Ascent Multiscan reader. The β -galactosidase data were used to normalize (transfection efficiency, cell growth etc.) the luciferase data.
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STATISTICAL METHODS

- The activity of a compound is calculated as fold induction compared to an untreated sample. For each compound the efficacy (maximal activity) is given as a relative activity compared to Wy14,643 for PPAR α , Rosiglitazone for PPAR γ and Carbacyclin for PPAR δ . The EC50 is the concentration giving 50% of maximal observed activity. EC50 values were calculated via non-linear regression using GraphPad PRISM 3.02 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, Ca). The results were expressed as means \pm SD.
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